

CRICKET 46

result

THE TIMES

35p

No. 65,830

THURSDAY MARCH 6 1997

McALPINE MEMOIRS

Christmas rituals at Chequers
PAGE 17



BEST FOR BOOKS

Sir Roy Strong on Albert, architect of the modern monarchy
PLUS: Peter Riddell on the life and times of Tim Bell PAGES 38,39



WHY MARRIAGE STILL MATTERS

William Rees-Mogg on the instability of living together
PAGE 18



BEST FOR JOBS

WANTED	
Director	70K
Secretary	65K
Consultant	55K
Graduate	17K

APPOINTMENTS
26-PAGE SECTION

Meat industry hygiene report was suppressed

By POLLY NEWTON
POLITICAL REPORTER

AN unpublished report on the meat industry raised fears more than a year ago that poor hygiene was putting the public at increasing risk of infection from *E. coli*, the bacterium which recently claimed 20 lives in Scotland.

March. But it was suppressed after the authors refused to tone down criticisms in the draft version. The BSE crisis broke that month and yesterday the report's editor Bill Swann said: "The reasons given were that it was perhaps not good timing, given that the industry had received such a battering with criticism about BSE."

Last night Labour accused Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, of being behind the decision to shelve the report, although officials said that it had not been presented to ministers. The £1 million report was compiled by the Hygiene Advice Team, whose six members were contracted to the Meat Hygiene Service for 12 months from March 1995 to audit Britain's meat industry.

The team visited every one of the 450 abattoirs in England, Scotland and Wales, before compiling a 54-page report — a copy of which has been obtained by *The Times*. They found that abattoirs were accepting for slaughter animals whose hides or fleeces were contaminated with faeces and said: "Organisms, such as *Escherichia coli* 157 and *Salmonella*, can be introduced into the plant on the skins of dirty livestock."

Mr Swann said yesterday: "If the recommendations in the report were being implemented uniformly and fully across the country, the risk from *E. coli* 157 would be considerably diminished." There was considerable anger among the Hygiene Advice Team when the Meat Hygiene Service refused to publish the report. They claimed that service had wanted to do so, but had been overruled by the Chief Veterinary Officer.

Mr Swann, who is now an assistant chief veterinary officer for the RSPCA, said: "I felt the report would have been of enormous benefit to veterinary surgeons involved in meat work and to people involved in food hygiene. The recommendations were obviously very important."

spokesman said that the report had been circulated within the industry, but no minister had seen it. Although the report's authors accept that their findings were sent to individual abattoirs, they argued that only a national code of practice would stop abattoirs from taking in dirty stock. They said that intense competition meant that few abattoirs would turn away animals if they believed another would accept them.

Report, page 4

£175 tax free pension is Tory target

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JILL SHERMAN

JOHN MAJOR held out the prospect of a tax-free pension of £175 a week for the next generation yesterday when he unveiled plans for the biggest overhaul in state pensions for 50 years.

- New Basic Pension Plus to replace basic state pension and Serps
- Individuals to get £9-a-week rebate to invest in personalised pension when they start work
- Government to transfer the 5 per cent of earnings from Serps into new pension funds
- Today's workers and pensioners unaffected by scheme, to be phased in after 2001
- Government to guarantee basic state pension, but average earner expected to build up pension worth £175 a week
- Scheme will cost taxpayer up to £7 billion a year medium term, but save £40 billion a year from 2040
- Tax relief on pension contributions to go, but pension income tax free

inflation-linked basic pension level would continue to be guaranteed by the state. But once the scheme was fully operational in 40 years' time, all the cash to fund pensions would come from investments by big pension funds. Carers, the unemployed, sick, disabled and some others would get credits towards their basic pension guarantee, and benefits would continue to be available for those unable to save enough.

Mr Lilley and Mr Major claimed that, in time, the switch could release as much as £40 billion in state spending. At first, however, the scheme would cost £160 million a year, rising to £7 billion annually by the end of the changeover period. Conservative policy chiefs were delighted that the "big idea" for their next term of office had arrived. They saw it as a boost for personal capital ownership on a par with the sale of council houses and privatisation in the 1980s.

Mr Lilley and Mr Major said that the £7 billion a year ultimate cost was the equivalent of 4p on income tax. And the cumulative cost to the taxpayer would be £151 billion — or more if the Government had to make up any shortfall in personal funds. But Mr Major said it was "a revolution for the new generation and probably one of the furthest-sighted reforms produced by any government."

He did not expect legislation to be produced until "the back end of the next Parliament. This is not a vote-winner in the sense that we are saying to people in this election 'This is a new goody'. The people who will benefit will be only just of voting age or below. It is not a short-term vote winner. It is the right thing to do for the economy, for pensions, for government."

Shares in life insurance companies barely moved yesterday, largely because the City believes that there is little chance of the Conservatives returning to power to implement the proposals.



Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, talks about his pension plans to student newspaper reporters. They may be the first generation to try them

Respect law, Berisha told

BRITAIN yesterday told President Berisha that he must respect the rule of law if Albania was to receive aid from other European nations. Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said in a BBC interview: "We are not prepared to give support when he acts in an authoritarian and dictatorial way."

Attlee is to join the Tories

By JAMES LANDALE
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE grandson of Clement Attlee, the post-war Labour Prime Minister, is to join the Conservative Party in the House of Lords. In a rare coup for the Tories, Earl Attlee, 40, — a crossbencher since he inherited the title in 1991 — said he was entering the Tory fold because he supported the party's policies.

New logo asserts Princess's distance from Royal Family

By DANIEL MCGRORY

DIANA, Princess of Wales, has designed her own logo, which distances her still further from her former husband and the Royal Family. Her staff said last night that the new logo was chosen and partly designed by the Princess, who doodled on a sketch pad what she was looking for.

The official reason for the new look is that she moved her offices to Kensington Palace this week and her correspondence has to reflect the new address. However, royal sources say the removal of the Prince of Wales feathers from her logo is yet another sign that she has severed her links with her former husband. Instead, her staff say, she

print books and she looked through and made her choice. Simple, no fuss. Staff say that no snub is intended with the doodled design, adding that it was necessary given that the terms of the divorce settlement included her moving her staff to Kensington Palace. The office move was agreed to prevent embarrassing contact between the Princess and her former husband, whose offices were almost next door to hers at St James's. The move was delayed while an apartment in Kensington Palace, where the Princess lives, was refurbished.



"It seemed sensible with retirement looming in May"

Boat comes in for civil servants

One of the last groups of expatriate civil servants in Hong Kong will set sail for home from the colony today aboard the luxury cruise ship *Oriana*.

BBC sacks Baker

The BBC has dismissed Danny Baker, the radio presenter, after he lambasted the referee who awarded the controversial penalty which gave Chelsea a cup-tie victory against Leicester City.

KATE ATKINSON

HUMAN CROQUET

The extraordinary new novel from the author of Behind the Scenes at the Museum

A Doubleday hardcover

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

TV & RADIO	46, 47	LETTERS	19	ARTS	35-37	BODY & MIND	16
WEATHER	24	OBITUARIES	21	CHESS & BRIDGE	45	BOOKS	38, 39
CRICKETS	24, 48	WILLIAM REES-MOGG	18	COURT & SOCIAL	20	LAW REPORT	42

Nation misses out as MP's words of warning fall on deaf ears

Just as a rambler may stumble upon a clearing in the wood where, unheard by any other living creature, a small songbird is wasting his melody on the uncomprehending trees, so a sketchwriter may amble into the Commons Press Gallery on an uneventful afternoon and see a little-known backbencher in full voice, with a powerful argument, a well-crafted text and almost nobody to hear.

His song is witnessed by few beyond a weary Madam Speaker, two gossiping minis-

ters, the Press Association note-taker, the Hansard stenographer, and five baffled Japanese tourists in the Strangers' Gallery.

Yesterday was such an afternoon. Andrew Robathan (C, Blaby) was moving his Civil Actions (Limitation of Proceedings) Bill. The young former soldier had a good case, a happy turn of phrase and confident delivery. In a fair-minded way he was expressing thoughts which would raise a cheer from millions outside the Palace of Westminster. His proposals — if con-

tained in a Government Paper or Party manifesto — would be earnestly discussed across the nation.

But because it was only Mr Robathan, only a Ten-Minute Rule Bill and only a Wednesday afternoon, there may be a grunt from a whip in the Smoking Room ("clever speech by that Robathan fellow") but nothing more. He might as well have been talking to the trees.

For lack of parliamentary time, his Bill will die within weeks, and he knew it. It will scarcely be reported in the



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

newspapers and he knew it. Ignored by television, it might just merit a few seconds' coverage on Radio 4's *Yesterday in Parliament*. And that will be the end of it. All this Mr Robathan knew. But, compelled by reason and indignation, he would propose his Bill regardless.

His case was simple. Britain was catching the American

disease. Civil actions for huge damages are being brought, and succeeding, where in the past the aggrieved person would have put the loss down to his own faulty judgment. "Just one of those things" or bad luck.

In Lyme Regis someone had slipped on wet cobbles and sued the council for £95,000 because there had been no

sign warning that wet cobbles are slippery. An accountant had contracted dysentery in Africa and sued. An unmarried teacher at a Roman Catholic school who had babies by different men, including a former pupil, was suing for "constructive dismissal". A prisoner was awarded damages because his haircut was too short.

The Law Society, said Robathan, had now set up an "accident line" for injured citizens, to drum up trade for lawyers. For them this work was a goldmine. Often the

taxpayer footed the bill, through legal aid. Damages (where paid by insurers) worked their way through into higher premiums for all.

Mr Robathan's proposed reform sounded, at first glance, feasible and fair. An ombudsman should hear claims and recommend an out-of-court settlement. If litigants were not prepared to accept it they would be free to go to court, but at their own cost, without legal aid.

The MP had a pleasant lightness of touch. Instructed by the Chair to name the day

for his Bill's debate, he replied, after the slightest of pauses: "May I, Madam Speaker. It may be that this Bill does not become law."

And who, asked Miss Boothroyd, would prepare and bring in the Bill? Here it is customary for an MP to reel off a list of sympathisers.

"Myself," said Mr Robathan.

In honour of the Marie Curie Campaign, he was wearing a daffodil.

"... born to blush unseen, And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Libel litigant takes MacKay to court over entrance fees

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Lord Chancellor was accused yesterday of acting outside his powers in a test challenge over the hefty increases in court "entrance" fees he has introduced in the civil courts.

John Witham, a 50-year-old from Essex who is on income support, is challenging the rises because he cannot pay the £500 fee to issue a libel writ and bring an action as a litigant in person. If Mr Witham is successful, the Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, could face repaying all court fees collected since the increases came into force in the middle of January.

The High Court writ fee went up from £120 to £500. All other fees for civil proceedings also rose by anything from 50 per cent to 150 per cent in line with Government policy to make the courts self-financing.

Mr Witham's counsel, Peter Duffy, told Lord Justice Rose, sitting with Mr Justice Laws, that when the Lord Chancellor increased fees by amending the Supreme Court Act 1981, he also removed the exemption from fees for those on income support. As a result, Mr Duffy said, Mr Witham was barred from issuing a libel writ and was denied access to the courts. Legal aid is not available for libel because there was no power to

waive or remit fees. Before the amendment, court fees could be remitted or reduced where to pay them would involve undue hardship because of the exceptional circumstances of the case.

Mr Witham was unemployed, had no savings and received income support of £57.90 a week, he told the judges. Even if he were able to put aside £20 a week, which was "unimaginable", it would take him six months to save the court fee of £500, he said. Without that, he could not start the action and was, in effect, denied a "right of access to the court".

Mr Duffy said that the Lord Chancellor had no power under Section 130 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 to repeal the provisions which allowed fees to be remitted when increasing court fees. The fundamental principle of access to the courts should not be altered unless there were "clear words in statute", he said. It was not "susceptible to being altered in delegated legislation", particularly where no debate, or vote, had been required by Parliament.

He added that even if the amendment order was valid, it would infringe the European Convention on Human Rights, which guaranteed a right to privacy and to a family life, which the law of

defamation was designed to protect "without discrimination on any grounds".

Stephen Richards, counsel for Lord Mackay, said that Parliament had conferred on the Lord Chancellor a "wide discretion to prescribe fees for the Supreme Court", subject to the agreement of the senior judges who are High Court heads of division and the Treasury.

The setting of the fees did not amount to interference with an individual's right of access to the courts, he added. Whether court fees were set at a reasonable level was a separate issue from whether someone should be given any financial help with his fees.

"Furthermore, court fees are but one element in the total costs of litigation, which will depend upon a host of factors such as procedural complexity, need for and costs legal representation, evidential requirements, cost of transcripts, ability to pay other party's costs if unsuccessful and costs of any appeal."

The latest rises will reap an extra £50 million in court fees and are the latest stage in a four-year policy to cover almost the entire £310 million cost of running the civil courts.

The judges' ruling which will be given on Friday.

Law, page 42



Labour women MPs petitioning Downing Street yesterday for Mr Evans' de-selection

Major attacks half-apologetic Evans

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND JOANNA BALE

JOHN MAJOR yesterday condemned the attack on women politicians by Tory MP David Evans as the maverick rightwinger was forced to apologise after a dressing down from his chief whip.

Mr Evans said sorry to Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, whom he had described as "dead from the neck upwards" and to the Prime Minister, whom he said was "vindictive and not forgiving"; but not to his Labour opponent at the general election Melanie Johnson, whose children he branded as "bas-

tards". The MP's selective contrition came after an early morning telephone call from Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip. Then the Prime Minister, asked at a Downing Street news conference whether he condemned Mr Evans' remarks unreservedly and in their totality, replied: "Yes."

Meanwhile, Ms Johnson, admitted that her feelings of indignation were mixed with a certain amount of glee that they could only help her to win his Welwyn Hatfield seat.

At her home in Cambridge yesterday, she said: "It's an extra morale boost to our campaign. He has shot himself in the foot yet again."

Although Mr Evans called her three young children "bastards" because she is not married, Ms Johnson appeared yesterday to be more enraged by his remarks that she had "never done a proper job". She said: "He is a man well known for his very strong political views, but he has never attacked me personally



Melanie Johnson: abuse gave her a boost

in that way and I am pretty shocked.

"I was particularly amazed at the inaccuracies about my work. The children understand the words Mr Evans used, but they are rather bemused by it all."

John Horrell, the leader of Cambridgeshire Conservative councillors, said last night: "Ms Johnson's children are very well brought up and her family circumstances are held in high esteem. Mr Evans' comments were totally inappropriate and I am at a loss to explain why he made them."

Mr Major's condemnation was not enough for Janet Anderson, Labour's women's spokesman. "If he is so completely at odds with Mr Evans then he surely must agree that Mr Evans is not fit to be a Tory MP and should go," she said.

She later led a group of women Labour MPs to Downing Street today to hand in a letter calling on Mr Major to de-select Mr Evans. She said in her letter: "Mr Evans's disgraceful comments clearly made him unsuitable to be a Parliamentary candidate in the forthcoming election."

But Mrs Bottomley was satisfied, saying that she had a "very gallant" apology from Mr Evans. She said: "I can only say when he came to speak in my constituency the other day, they had a tremendously good evening. I have had a very gallant and elegant apology from him, which is much appreciated."

Second minister admits misleading Parliament

By MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A SECOND defence minister was forced yesterday to admit he had misled Parliament after giving false answers to the House of Lords about Gulf War syndrome investigations.

Earl Howe, a Junior Defence Minister, said answers he had given to parliamentary questions in June and July last year about the cause of death of a number of animals found in the Saudi and Kuwaiti deserts at the end of the Gulf War had been inaccurate.

Last summer Lord Howe said samples from the animal carcasses had been sent for

examination to the Centre for Tropical Veterinary Medicine at Edinburgh University, which concluded they had died of natural causes.

Inquiries at the Ministry of Defence, however, revealed that the samples were never sent to Edinburgh and it is now believed that no tests were carried out at any research centre. MoD officials are now searching through documents and records to see what happened to the samples, which were taken from a number of camels, goats and sheep. In a report last month

Richard Mottram, the MoD's Permanent Under Secretary, confirmed there had been serious failings by a number of military officers and civil servants who had advised Nicholas Soames, the Armed Forces Minister, that organophosphate pesticides were not used by British troops in the Gulf. Veterans suffering from a range of illnesses which they have called Gulf War syndrome have claimed that the toxic pesticides could have caused the deterioration in their health since returning from the Gulf.

Mackay chides judges

THE Lord Chancellor last night cautioned judges against taking it on themselves to overcome defects in the law. Lord Mackay of Clashfern said it was his "firm view" that a judge's duty was "to apply the law as he finds it, not to seek to rectify perceived inadequacies by the use of creative interpretation".

When deficiencies were revealed "it is for Parliament to respond", he said. Lord Mackay was speaking in London at the prizegiving for the Times Law Awards compe-

tion, sponsored by the chambers of Anthony Grabner, QC, at Essex Court, Temple, in the City of London.

The winner of the £3,000 first prize on the title "The Law Lords — A Supreme Court?" was Elizabeth Errington, 23, a graduate in psychology and physiology from Oxford. The £2,000 second prize went to John McKeever and £1,000 third prize to Kenneth Yap.

The winning essay and full list of winners will be carried on the Law page in *The Times* next Tuesday.

Blair backs off polling referendum

Tony Blair yesterday backed away from committing a Labour government to a timetable for staging a referendum on changing the electoral system. The Labour leader also issued a warning that, even if the public voted in favour of change in a referendum, reforms might not be introduced in time for the general election after next.

Labour unveiled a package of planned constitutional reforms agreed jointly with senior Liberal Democrats.

It omitted any commitment to electoral reform but pledged both parties to the abolition of voting rights for hereditary peers, Scottish and Welsh devolution and a Freedom of Information Act.

Woman's body found buried

Police have found the body of Diana Goldsmith, the former common law wife of Derek Goldsmith, a millionaire, buried in the garden of a house in Bromley, southeast London. The mother of three children, Miss Goldsmith, 45, was last seen in Sevenoaks in January 1995. Two men have been charged over her disappearance.

New ferry safety rules condemned

New ferry safety rules being announced by the Government today on the tenth anniversary of the Herald of Free Enterprise disaster, are "too little, too late", families of the 194 victims said. To meet international standards 111 British ferries must be adapted. But campaigners claim basic problems with roll-on roll-off ferries will remain.

Paedophiles 'exceed million'

A police officer who has spent 32 years tracking child abusers claimed there were at least a million active paedophiles in Britain. Detective Superintendent Michael Hames, former head of the Obscene Publications Branch at New Scotland Yard, told a Perth conference that for every convicted paedophile another 20 went free.

Failing schools have more boys

Schools found to be failing their pupils often have many more boys than girls, an analysis by school inspectors disclosed yesterday. A study by Ofsted, the schools inspectorate, of the 260 schools it has judged to be failing out of more than 14,000 assessed, found that weak leadership and poor teaching were the main characteristics of failure.

BONUS POSTAL ACCOUNT

MAXIMUM 6.6% GROSS P.A. RETURN WITH PREMIUM 8% GROSS P.A. INTRODUCTORY RATE

UNIQUE QUARTERLY BONUS

INSTANT ACCESS IF YOU WANT IT

	£100,000 plus	£50,000 - £99,999	£25,000 - £49,999	£10,000 - £24,999	£2,000 - £9,999
EQUIVALENT ANNUAL RATES (GROSS)	6.60%	6.50%	6.45%	6.25%	5.65%
QUARTERLY RATES (GROSS)	6.51%	6.42%	6.37%	6.17%	5.59%

BONUS POSTAL ACCOUNT RATES INCLUDE A UNIQUE BONUS ON YOUR MINIMUM BALANCE FOR EACH QUARTER

CALL 0800 174 635 NOW

QUOTING REFERENCE AS056/10

OR COMPLETE COUPON BELOW

Lines are open Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm.

You may be able to register with us to receive interest gross, otherwise it will be paid net of income tax at the prescribed rate. 8% gross p.a. payable until 24.3.97. After 24.3.97 the rates shown above will be payable. Rates may vary. The minimum investment is £2000. A bonus is payable each quarter that the balance of the account does not fall below £2000. To assist us in improving our service we may record or monitor calls. Abbey National and the Umbrella logo are trademarks of Abbey National plc, Abbey House, Baker Street, London NW1 6NL, United Kingdom.

Please complete and send to: Abbey National Direct Postal Account Centre, Freepost BE 1890, P.O. Box 422, Belfast BT2 7BR.

Name: _____ Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Date of birth: _____ Signature(s): _____

Please find attached my cheque for £..... to invest in the Abbey National Bonus Postal Account or send me further information. ☐

Please send a personal cheque drawn from an account in and showing your name, plus two confirmations of address e.g. household bills. ☐

13719

over 25?

car insurance more than £200?

you need help.

↓

0800 11 22 33

quote ref. 100000

"Our Daddy phones us from England EVERY DAY!"

He says that it's so much cheaper with Oystel.

- GERMANY from 17p p/min
- NORWAY from 18p p/min
- U.S.A. from 10p p/min
- JAPAN from 29p p/min
- AUSTRALIA from 19p p/min
- INDIA from 57p p/min

Plus: Reliable Operation - Friendly Staff - Instant FREE Connection - FREE International Billing - Use ANY PHONE - 100's of other countries available.

For full details PHONE FREE NOW

0800 279 1500

Oystel Communications Limited
Berkshire House, 252-256 Kings Road, Reading, Berkshire RG1 4HP
Tel 01734 569 123 Fax 01734 569 100
Now the world's your Oystel

Pre-100 numbers are weekend rates only. Subject to VAT.

0800 11 22 33

Police reveal chilling details of how Lin Russell met her death



Mrs Russell: gagged with strips of towel

By STEPHEN FARRELL

THE killer of Lin Russell, the mother attacked with a hammer as she walked home across a Kent field with her two daughters, bound her wrists with shoe lace and gagged or blindfolded her with strips of towel, detectives said yesterday. Her six-year-old daughter Megan, who was also battered to death, had a bootlace wrapped twice around her neck, possibly to force her mother's compliance.

Detective Chief Inspector David Stevens said Megan's sister Josie, aged nine, who suffered 16 head injuries but survived, did not remember her mother and sister being tied up. Josie is now recovering in Wales with her father, Dr Shaun Russell.

Mr Stevens said the victims were found fully-clothed and there was no evidence of sexual motive for the attack, but he said the reason for the assault might never be known, even if the killer was caught. "Anybody with a propensity to do this is suffering from some sort of psychological disorder, probably being a psychopath," he said.

He said the killer could have been disturbed at any time, and that the evidence showed the attack took

place within a space of three or four square metres. "You can't tie people up and do all these activities within the space of a few seconds. You are talking about 10 to 15 minutes. If you work the time out, there is exactly enough time for that to have happened," Mr Stevens added.

Mrs Russell, 45, had her wrists bound with a lace from her own tennis shoe. The lace was still around her right wrist when she was found. The bloody towel strips, torn from the family towel, were removed and were later found in the children's string bag, which had been thrown over a hedge a mile away. The boot lace around Megan's neck has not been found and probably belonged to the killer. Police say it is vital that the lace is found. "We know that was put

around her neck before the fatal hammer blow," Mr Stevens said. "You can speculate but clearly it could have been used to force mum to do certain things. Can you imagine a mother being confronted with a ligature around her child's throat? She would comply, wouldn't she?"

Mrs Russell and Megan were killed sometime between 4.20pm and 5pm on July 9 last year in Cherrygarden Lane, in woods near Chilenden, Kent. They were returning from a swimming gala at the girls' school to their home in Nonington, near Canterbury. They left the school at 4pm and were seen walking through a field into the woods. The last sighting was at 4.20pm. Josie later told police that she saw a car drive past them, then

the driver climbed out, reached into the back of the car, brought out a hammer and attacked Megan and her mother before chasing her. Mr Stevens said the team of 15 detectives were taking calls from the public almost every day, and was using forensic technology to recreate the scene. Although officers had liaised with detectives on the Billie Jo Jenkins murder in Hastings, there was nothing to suggest links. Extensive inquiries had also failed to discover potential military or occult links.

Mr Stevens renewed appeals for sightings of a fair-haired man seen driving a light-coloured car with rear mudflaps, anti-static strip and a GB sticker near Cherrygarden Lane around 5pm.



Megan: battered to death with hammer

FA Cup goal comment rebounds on Danny Baker as he is sacked from BBC phone-in

Radio host and referee pay penalty for one kick

By DAMIAN WHITWORTH AND RUSSELL KEMPSON

A HOTLY disputed penalty kick yesterday produced two results beyond the FA Cup tie it decided. Danny Baker, the radio presenter who lambasted the referee who awarded the penalty, was sacked by the BBC, and the referee himself will no longer officiate during a Premiership match between the two sides next month.

The controversial penalty that gave Chelsea victory three minutes from the end of extra time in their FA Cup fifth round replay against Leicester City on February 26 caused uproar among City supporters. Some are suing the Football Association over the decision.

Later that night Baker, who was hosting an irreverent radio phone-in show, called on supporters all over the country to barrack Mike Reed, the referee, wherever he went and "make his life hell".

Baker was sacked by the BBC yesterday hours before the FA Premier League took the unprecedented decision, on the advice of police, that Mr Reed would not officiate at the next match between Chelsea and Leicester.

Baker said he believed that the BBC had been "barracked" by the football authorities who were upset because he provided an outlet for the uncompromising views of fans. BBC bosses said that Baker's ferocious verbal assault on the referee during his Wednesday evening slot on Radio 5 Live was the final straw after a string of incidents.

After saying that Mr Reed was to be the sacrificial lamb in a campaign against referees, Baker cut off callers who disagreed with him and asked "all football supporters to barrack him [Reed], really get on his back. Use words like 'fraud' and 'you are no good, you were wrong, Mr Reed'".

Tony Hall, head of BBC news, said of Baker: "This wasn't the first occasion that he had crossed the line between being lively, humorous and controversial and being insulting to the audience. This is something we cannot tolerate. It was decided that in the light of the programme, when Baker encouraged unacceptable behaviour towards a football referee and was blatantly rude to callers, he should no longer host the programme."

Last November Baker advised Tottenham Hotspur fans angry at their team's performance to throw their programmes on the pitch, which is against the law. Earlier this year while Brighton and Hove Albion were in turmoil, Baker wished terminal illness on the directors.

Baker, a close friend of the equally outrageous Chris Ewans who recently parted company with Radio 1, was unrepentant. "I'm not that surprised. It's been an uneasy marriage since the beginning," he said. "I don't think you can represent the true feelings of rank-and-file football fans as well as [keeping] your contacts with the hierarchy in the FA. I think they were leant on." Answering accusations that he had not respected listeners' views, he said: "It was never meant to be a debating forum."

After being sacked from his Wednesday show Baker declined to continue in his Saturday slot. He will continue to work for GLR, a BBC station in London.

Referees said that the decision to release Mr Reed, 45, from Birmingham, from a game was an unwelcome precedent. David Elleray, the Premier League referees' spokesman, said: "Many people within the game, not just referees, were disappointed with the comments made and concerned over the actions they might provoke."

Arthur Smith, general secretary of the Referees' Association said: "This [decision] is a bit worrying. It shows the pressures on referees at the highest level and if anything goes wrong it seems that they have to bear the brunt of it. A referee gives an honest decision, as he saw it at the time, and then gets slaughtered."

He said it would be worth looking at technological aids, such as action replays on giant screens, to help referees. Earlier this week Leicester City supporters served a writ on the FA, seeking £140 in damages plus expenses when one of their number claimed he had to miss two days' work because he was so distressed by the penalty decision.

Baker, a close friend of the equally outrageous Chris Ewans who recently parted company with Radio 1, was unrepentant. "I'm not that surprised. It's been an uneasy marriage since the beginning," he said. "I don't think you can represent the true feelings of rank-and-file football fans as well as [keeping] your contacts with the hierarchy in the FA. I think they were leant on." Answering accusations that he had not respected listeners' views, he said: "It was never meant to be a debating forum."

After being sacked from his Wednesday show Baker declined to continue in his Saturday slot. He will continue to work for GLR, a BBC station in London.

Referees said that the decision to release Mr Reed, 45, from Birmingham, from a game was an unwelcome precedent. David Elleray, the Premier League referees' spokesman, said: "Many people within the game, not just referees, were disappointed with the comments made and concerned over the actions they might provoke."

Arthur Smith, general secretary of the Referees' Association said: "This [decision] is a bit worrying. It shows the pressures on referees at the highest level and if anything goes wrong it seems that they have to bear the brunt of it. A referee gives an honest decision, as he saw it at the time, and then gets slaughtered."

He said it would be worth looking at technological aids, such as action replays on giant screens, to help referees. Earlier this week Leicester City supporters served a writ on the FA, seeking £140 in damages plus expenses when one of their number claimed he had to miss two days' work because he was so distressed by the penalty decision.

Baker, a close friend of the equally outrageous Chris Ewans who recently parted company with Radio 1, was unrepentant. "I'm not that surprised. It's been an uneasy marriage since the beginning," he said. "I don't think you can represent the true feelings of rank-and-file football fans as well as [keeping] your contacts with the hierarchy in the FA. I think they were leant on." Answering accusations that he had not respected listeners' views, he said: "It was never meant to be a debating forum."

After being sacked from his Wednesday show Baker declined to continue in his Saturday slot. He will continue to work for GLR, a BBC station in London.

Referees said that the decision to release Mr Reed, 45, from Birmingham, from a game was an unwelcome precedent. David Elleray, the Premier League referees' spokesman, said: "Many people within the game, not just referees, were disappointed with the comments made and concerned over the actions they might provoke."

Arthur Smith, general secretary of the Referees' Association said: "This [decision] is a bit worrying. It shows the pressures on referees at the highest level and if anything goes wrong it seems that they have to bear the brunt of it. A referee gives an honest decision, as he saw it at the time, and then gets slaughtered."

He said it would be worth looking at technological aids, such as action replays on giant screens, to help referees. Earlier this week Leicester City supporters served a writ on the FA, seeking £140 in damages plus expenses when one of their number claimed he had to miss two days' work because he was so distressed by the penalty decision.

After being sacked from his Wednesday show Baker declined to continue in his Saturday slot. He will continue to work for GLR, a BBC station in London.



Danny Baker, who called on football fans to make referee Mike Reed's life hell

Detectives investigate child's TV abuse role

By ADRIAN LEE

THE parents of the young star of a television drama about child sex abuse may be questioned by detectives for allowing their daughter to take the role.

A viewer complained that by acting in *No Child of Mine*, Brooke Kinsella, 13, was herself abused.

Hampshire police confirmed yesterday that there would be an investigation and said that officers would speak to social services and the Crown Prosecution Service. The actress and her parents, George and Debbie, of Islington, north London, may also be interviewed.

The programme was made by the Southampton-based Meridian Broadcasting and screened in most ITV regions last week.

A police spokesman said it was too early to say if there would be a prosecution but it was felt that the complaint merited "a closer look".

Miss Kinsella's agent, Yvette Powell of the Anna Scher Theatre, where the teenage actress spends one evening a week, said: "I am sure nothing will come of it. Brooke was definitely not harmed."

Meridian said there had been 135 calls of complaint about the programme and 173 messages of support. A helpline set up following its screening has received more than 45,000 calls.

Life for killers of elderly gay man

By A STAFF REPORTER

A SOLICITOR'S son and his two friends were jailed for life yesterday for the murder of an elderly homosexual after taking drink and drugs.

One of the trio had told police he had watched Quentin Tarantino's film *Pulp Fiction* on the night of the attack. Exeter Crown Court was told. Frederick Sweet, 64, and Bernard Hawken, 53, were assaulted in a shelter in Central Park, Plymouth, on November 6, 1995.

Both men had their faces crushed as they were held face downwards and repeatedly stamped on and their genitals were stabbed and mutilated. Mr Hawken will be confined to a wheelchair for the rest of his life.

Richard Bownes, 18, Roberto Pace, 18, and Stuart Smith, 19, all of Plymouth, had denied murdering Mr Sweet and attempting to murder Mr Hawken, and causing him grievous bodily harm with intent. The teenagers all claimed they were out of control through drink and drugs and although they were present when the attacks took place, they never intended to cause serious injuries.

They were convicted of murder and causing grievous bodily harm, and will start their sentences in youth custody.

Bownes was persuaded to go to the police by his father Michael, a senior solicitor at

Plymouth City Council, who questioned his son after becoming suspicious by the amount of washing he was doing and the colour of the water.

The gang, all of whom came from well-off families and had been to grammar schools in Plymouth, had spent the evening drinking up to two litres of wine apiece, smoking cannabis, taking large amounts of Valium and sniffing butane. They then went to the park, which is a well-known meeting place for homosexuals at night.

As they left the park a witness heard one say "We done good, we showed them," but the next day their bravado turned to self pity as they told friends what they had done and one said: "I have ruined my life."



Bownes: suspected his son of involvement

Checks urged on drunk doctors

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A SCOTTISH judge yesterday urged the Department of Health to introduce compulsory two-yearly health checks on doctors. His call came after a surgeon was allowed to continue operating for several years after colleagues suspected his serious drink problem.

The British Medical Association said that it would not oppose checks if they became part of doctors' contracts. The recommendation was made by Sheriff Principal Gordon Nicholson, QC, who conducted a fatal accident inquiry into the deaths of two patients operated on by Gerald Davies, a consultant surgeon formerly of St John's Hospital, Livingston, West Lothian.

Dr Davies, 49, carried out emergency operations despite having an alcohol level twice the maximum permitted for driving. He told the inquiry that he drank half a bottle of whisky and a lager chased every night. Doctors specialising in alcoholism told the inquiry that Dr Davies' brain and liver damage suggested that he drank much more.

Formal complaints were made to the managers of the NHS Trust where he worked by staff and GPs but were not acted on. Patients complained that Dr Davies attended clinics smelling of drink.

In a report published yesterday, Sheriff Nicholson criticised the hospital procedures that allowed Dr Davies to

keep practising. He said managers who received numerous complaints about Dr Davies' drinking failed to act swiftly enough and junior doctors feared that their careers would be damaged if they spoke out.

Sheriff Nicholson recommended that NHS trusts should require staff suspected of an alcohol problem to undergo a medical examination. Health authorities should consider "compulsory two-yearly medical examinations which would include, among other things, liver function tests."

Yesterday Arthur Morris, chairman of the BMA's Scottish Council, said: "I fully support Sheriff Nicholson's recommendations for improving the monitoring of alcohol problems among health professionals."

Sheriff Nicholson said that he found it "quite astonishing" that serious concerns expressed in 1994 by John Ramey, a consultant surgeon who had to correct an operation performed by Dr Davies, did not provoke an urgent and immediate inquiry. "I take a very serious view of this matter," his report says.

The fatal accident inquiry was into the deaths of two of Dr Davies' patients. Sheriff Nicholson concluded that they were seriously ill by the time Dr Davies operated on them and he could not be held responsible for their deaths.

Italian cricketers stumped by language

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

ITALY'S less than celebrated cricketers could be stumped even before they take the field for World Cup qualification in Kuala Lumpur next week. Their coach, Doug Ferguson, does not speak the language, which does not help when it comes to explaining the difference between a leg break and a googly.

Mr Ferguson, 67, from Newbottle, Co Durham, is hastily taking language lessons to make himself understood before his team puts willow to leather. But the best he has been able to manage so far is "Conduce con la testa e con la spalla davanti" which roughly translates: "lead with your head and front

shoulder when you are playing forward." Mr Ferguson said: "I've been going over to Italy for about 10 years to coach various sides so they asked me to take over the national team."

He says his side will do well even though he has seen them for only four weeks since the summer. "The language is a bit of a problem. But I will get the message across somehow - maybe with sign language. It's a very expensive business getting everyone together. Luckily we have a rich president."

Italy are in the same group as Scotland, Hong Kong, Bermuda and Papua New Guinea in the 22-nation qualifying tournament. The Scots have been training in a heat chamber at

Strathclyde University to prepare for the temperatures in Kuala Lumpur.

But Mr Ferguson, who is a scout for Northamptonshire, warns: "Italy are improving all the time. Three of the tournament teams will go through to the 1999 World Cup proper in England. But Scotland are among the favourites. If we beat 50 overs against them we'll have done really well."

Meanwhile Scotland's coach, Jim Love, fancies his chances: "You have to remember how far down the pecking order Zimbabwe were 10 years ago, or the remoteness of the possibility that Sri Lanka would win the 1996 World Cup."

Cricket, page 46

Someone else's server from £995.

Now that Compaq have introduced the ProSignia 200 range, what's the point?

A Compaq server from £995.



Introducing the new Compaq ProSignia 200 server range. A range that not only starts at an incredible £995 plus VAT but also includes performance and reliability features like Pre-Failure Warranty; Automatic Server Recovery; Insight Manager; SmartStart system integration tool; and Intel Pentium® processor 166-MHz, to name but a few.

So, to recap - that's a new server range, with unique features, from under £1,000, and all from Compaq - the No.1 in servers. Sounds good to us.

For your free brochure pack please phone:

0990 50 00 35

Prices are UK Typical Buying Prices and exclusive of VAT at 17.5%. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks of Intel Corporation.

Boat finally comes in for Hong Kong civil servants

By CATHERINE FIELD IN HONG KONG AND MARK HENDERSON

ONE of the last groups of expatriate civil servants in Hong Kong will invoke a final privilege from the dying days of empire when they set sail for home from the colony today.

Fifty-three officers and their families, among them the former directors of the colony's Treasury and Social Welfare departments, will leave for Southampton at sunset tonight aboard the luxury *Oriana* cruise ship at the Hong Kong taxpayers' expense. On Saturday the QE2 will pull away from her Hong Kong berth with a second group of more than 100 retiring civil servants.

They are benefiting from an old perk of the colonial era which entitles them to travel home by sea rather than air when their assignment ends. One reportedly flew back from his retirement home in Northern Ireland to board a luxury cruise.

The cheapest accommodation for the 34-night journey aboard the *Oriana* — a four-berth cabin with shower — costs £3,300 per person. The

Oriana's most exclusive and expensive cabins, the Premier Suites, cost more than £12,000 per person for a double room with an ocean-view balcony. A single first-class air fare with British Airways from Hong Kong to Heathrow costs £2,300.

Hong Kong taxpayers are paying almost £1 million this financial year on travel costs for former civil servants, on top of the £40 million already earmarked for the retirement compensation package for British civil servants leaving the territory. Officials receive

compensation of about £100,000 whether they serve on after 1997 or not.

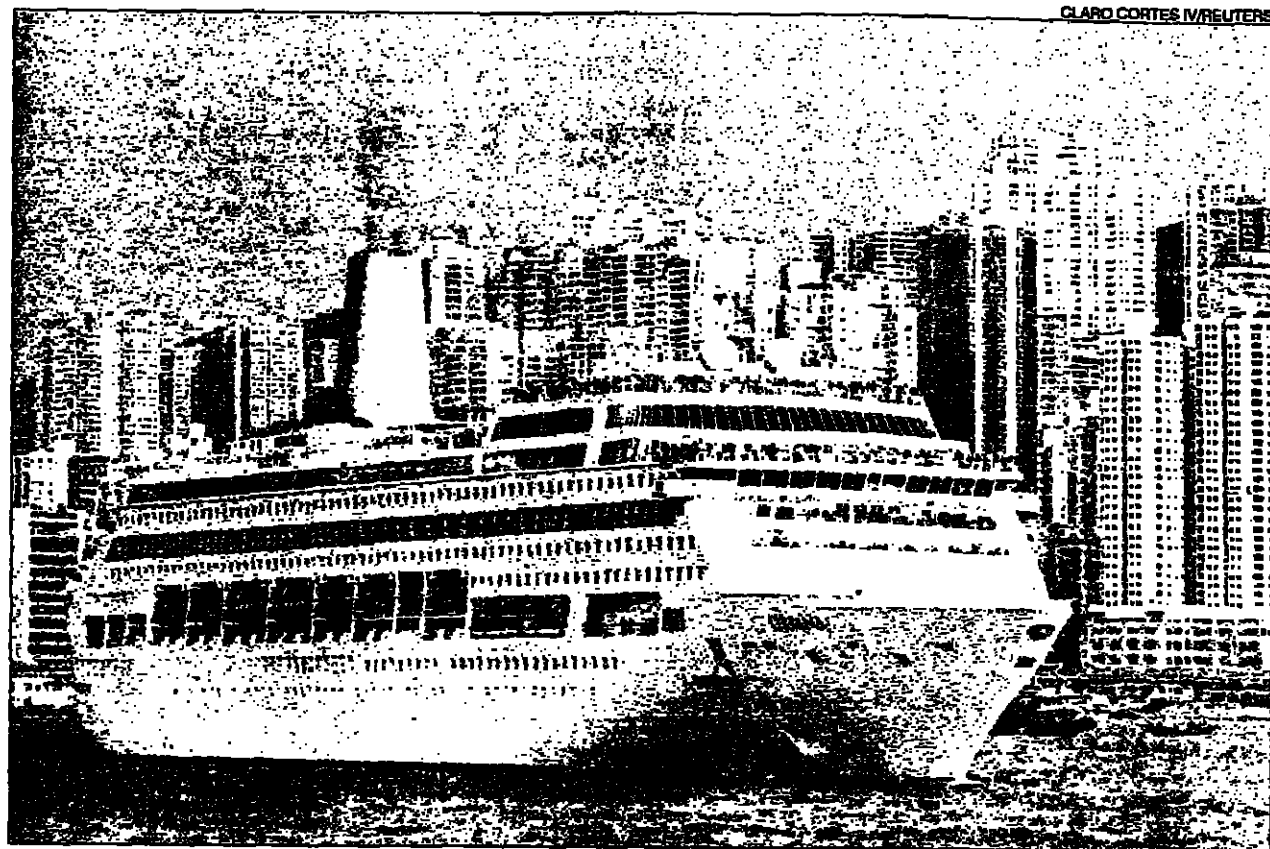
The retiring members of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service will enjoy more than four weeks of cosseted life in the *Oriana*'s luxury cabins, as they cruise the seaboard of the Indian and Atlantic Oceans. The ship will call at Kota Kinabalu in Malaysia, Singapore and Mauritius, before continuing to Durban and Cape Town, Walvis Bay in Namibia, the Cape Verde Islands and Tenerife. The QE2 passengers will cruise

the Gulf of Thailand before visiting Bangkok, Bombay, Dubai, Muscat and Agaba. The QE2 then sails through the Suez canal and on to Haifa, Athens, Naples, Cadiz and Lisbon en route to Southampton.

Between ports, *Oriana* passengers can amuse themselves at West End shows, films and concerts, sun themselves beside the ship's three swimming pools or choose between three restaurants, nine bars and four dancing areas. Cabin stewards will serve breakfast in bed, shine shoes and dim the bedroom lights when guests turn in.

QE2 passengers must content themselves with six bars and have no theatre to attend, although they have seven restaurants. Many civil servants preferred the *Oriana* to the QE2, saying she has better facilities and classier service, although the QE2 gets through 73,000 bottles of champagne, 12,500 boxes of cigars and 2,500lb of caviar every year.

Oriana carries 1,800 passengers and 760 crew, and



The cruise ship *Oriana* in Hong Kong. Fifty-three civil servants and their families will return home on her

officials from P&O, who operate the ship, said last night that the vessel is full for the journey. "This is a beautiful, luxurious ship. I think these people will have a lovely cruise," said Thomas Fong of P&O.

The travel perk was scrapped for civil servants

joining after 1984, although an exception was made for the Governor, Chris Patten, who will leave aboard the Royal Yacht *Britannia* on the stroke of midnight on June 30 when the colony is handed over to China.

The departure of civil servants before the handover

reflects deep pessimism among officials about work prospects under Chinese rule. Hong Kong's efficient and meritocratic civil service has been an exception among Asian bureaucracies noted for red tape and rampant corruption.

□ Hong Kong: Britain and

China have agreed that international journalists can cover the transfer of sovereignty on June 30 without having to submit to political scrutiny (Jonathan Mirsky writes). Hugh Davies, the Ambassador, said journalists will only have to go through normal accreditation procedures.

Council refuses to house sex offenders

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

CONVICTED paedophiles, sex offenders and drug dealers could be denied council housing by a local authority.

Rhondda Cynon Taff council in South Wales is the first to demand that prospective tenants declare criminal records, especially those involving sex, children and drugs. If they do not, and a criminal record is discovered, the tenants could lose their homes. There will be a right of appeal.

The council's housing committee acted after residents in the village of Hawthorn successfully fought to prevent David Simms, a convicted paedophile, being housed by the council when he left prison. Council officials visited Simms in jail and got him to agree not to live in the area.

If an existing tenant is convicted of a crime involving paedophilia, sex offences or drug dealing, they could also be evicted under legislation allowing the council to prevent anti-social behaviour.

Councillor Judith Burford, chairman of the housing committee, said: "Our unanimous decision was taken to stop paedophiles from living close to children."

TV industry establishes study group on violence

By ALEXANDRA FREAN
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

TELEVISION watchdogs agreed yesterday to set up a working party on screen violence, in response to pressure from the Conservatives and Labour.

The BBC, the Independent Television Commission and the Broadcasting Standards Council said that the new body would work on establishing common criteria for assessing the amount and degree of television violence. It is to be chaired by someone from outside the industry.

The agreement was reached at a seminar in London on screen violence, organised by the three organisations and attended by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary, her Labour shadow, Jack Cunningham, and broadcasters and programme-makers. Issues discussed included introducing cinema-style ratings for television programmes.

Mrs Bottomley said that television companies needed to ensure that violence was not shown when children might be watching. Dr Cunningham said that a Labour government would impose tough standards to protect them.

THE BIGGEST MEDICAL COMPLAINT FOR PEOPLE OVER 50 IS

HOSPITAL WAITING LISTS

SAGA Hospital Care ensures you will not have to wait long for treatment

Queuing for an NHS operation, whether it is major or minor, is a dispiriting experience. But with Saga's Hospital Care plan, developed exclusively for people aged 50 and over, waiting for months (even years) for treatment is eliminated.

- ✓ Prompt treatment for 12 of the most commonly suffered complaints
- ✓ Early admission for all other operations where the NHS cannot admit you within six weeks, after seeing your specialist
- ✓ Full cover for private in-patient charges*
- ✓ Guaranteed acceptance from age 50 with no upper age limit and no medical required
- ✓ Medical conditions that occurred before you join may be covered after 2 years*
- ✓ Automatic tax relief on premiums if you are aged 60 or over
- ✓ FREE luggage set when you enrol

*Subject to policy conditions

†Limits do apply to some out-patient treatments

SAGA Hospital Care is underwritten by Prime Health

For a free quotation and information pack, phone our dedicated Customer Care Team at Prime Health

01483 553 553

Ref No. M49219LS

SAGA Services Ltd



You could save up to £278 a year on your fuel bill.
Ring now for clever advice.



IT'S CLEVER STUFF

0345 277200

A trained professional from your local Energy Efficiency Advice Centre will advise you on heating, insulation, glazing, lighting and appliances. Always look for products and services identified by the Energy Efficiency symbol they'll help you save money.

<http://www.ead.org.uk>

ENERGY EFFICIENCY IS AN ENERGY SAVING TRUST PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE, AND DOES NOT ENDORSE ANY PRODUCT, MANUFACTURER OR SERVICE PROVIDER. THE ENERGY SAVING TRUST IS AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT FUNDED BODY. (52)

Find promises better therapy

Scientists discover how enzyme makes cancer cells grow

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS in Scotland have discovered why the cells in tumours go on multiplying out of control.

The research may lead to new screening tests for cancer, and new ways of treating it, according to the team from the Cancer Research Campaign's laboratories in Glasgow, led by Dr Nicol Keith.

They have found why an enzyme called telomerase, which is active in unborn babies, is also activated in many cancers. Babies need to grow very quickly, and the enzyme makes that possible by suppressing the controls which tell cells to stop dividing after a certain time.

In adults the suppression of such controls is harmful, leading to cancers which grow uncontrollably. The Glasgow team has studied the gene responsible for making part of the enzyme, and found that it is located in a section of chromosome three which is often observed to be abnormal in human cancers.

This indicates that genetic damage involving the telomerase gene may underlie cancer. In 97 per cent of samples from cervical cancers, the team reports in the journal *Oncogene*, there was evidence

that the gene was present in multiple copies, which would lead to greater production of the enzyme.

"This discovery is exciting because it could have implications for new therapies and diagnosis," Dr Keith says. "We are also delighted to be the first to publish this finding, despite a lot of international competition."

Professor Gordon McVie, Director-General of the Cancer Research Campaign, said: "This is the first report of a genetic alteration involving



Keith: discovery widens understanding of cancer

telomerase in human cancer. To scientists across the world, this discovery fits like a jigsaw with what we already understand about cancer development. It undoubtedly offers hope for cancer patients because over the next few years we could develop a cancer diagnostic test and may even be able to develop new anti-cancer drugs."

So far the team has studied only one of three genes involved in making telomerase. They now plan to search for the other two and trace whether genetic damage to them may also be implicated in cancer.

The discovery unveils another layer in scientific understanding of how cancer starts. "It explains a lot of what we observed in cancer but didn't understand," Dr Keith says.

It also provides a new target for cancer therapy. Since the enzyme telomerase is functioning in the cancer cells but not in the healthy cells, a therapy that would prevent it operating should stop the cancer in its tracks. This has already been proved in tissue culture, Dr Keith says, and could provide a new approach to cancer treatment.



The former picture restorer David Webster with the chip that he plans to have inserted into works of art

Chip developed to identify stolen art

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

A COMPUTER chip developed for identification of the casualties of war has been adapted for investigation into stolen works of art.

A former picture restorer and dealer has had the technology developed so that a similar chip can carry details of a painting, sculpture or piece of furniture into which it has been inserted. The history, description and provenance of any work of art can be read with a scanner. Officers from Scotland Yard

and representatives of the National Gallery and the Tate are believed to be among those who will attend a demonstration tomorrow.

The chip, no larger than a grain of rice, is completely camouflaged once inserted and impossible to locate, said David Webster, managing director of Eidetic International, based in Somerset.

He said that £500 million worth of insured art was stolen in Britain each year. "The police find criminals but can't prove the items they've found belonged to the person they were stolen from." The

latest technology — a sort of invisible electronic fingerprint — could identify the objects and link them directly with their owners. Almost any material other than silver can take the chip.

The idea came to Mr Webster while he was watching the BBC's *Antiques Roadshow*. As he researched the subject, he stumbled upon technology developed by an American company, Destron Fearing, in the late 1960s for fighter pilots in the Vietnam War, to replace the ID tag they wore around their necks. It has been used since then for

medical records and to protect endangered species. Mr Webster said that Destron Fearing had given him exclusive rights to develop the technology for art in Europe and claims that the technology goes far beyond existing marking systems.

He will display the device at the Museums and Galleries Commission, showing how his "readers" costing a few hundred pounds can call up the data with a scanner. Installing the chip costs about £40 an object, but museums committing themselves to 1,000 items would pay £12.

Dunblane parents launch book

Parents of some of the 16 Dunblane children shot dead with their teacher by Thomas Hamilton published a book yesterday to mark the massacre's first anniversary on March 13. Dr Michael North, whose daughter Sophie, 5, died, said the book confirmed how well human nature could cope with adversity.

Dunblane: Our Year of Tears by Peter Samson and Alan Crow (Mainstream, £12.99). All profits to Save The Children.

Train stab case

A 17-year-old youth was charged with the attempted murder of Allison Kennedy, who was stabbed with a commando knife on a train. Magistrates in Guildford, Surrey, remanded him in custody until March 13.

Drug withdrawn

An anti-flea treatment which is claimed to have killed nearly 100 pet cats and dogs was withdrawn from sale in Britain. Virbac, the manufacturer of Droxipol, said it was temporarily suspending sales of the product.

La Plante libel

The writer Lynda La Plante accepted undisclosed libel damages in the High Court from the *Daily Express* over a claim that she had breached a contract with two ex-prisoners whose story she used in the TV series *The Governor*.

Cadets spared

A York judge granted two men conditional discharges because they would lose places at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst, if jailed or put on probation. They admitted causing an affray and damage in a pub car park.

Portrait stolen

A portrait of the Rev William Buckland, founding father of geology, has been cut from its frame at Oxford University. It was stolen from the library at the Department of Earth Sciences, to which only university members have access.

Window on past

The Department of National Heritage has issued an emergency "spot listing" on Pontin's 1937 Riviera Hotel in Weymouth, Dorset, prompted by the district council's concern that original panoramic windows might be removed.

Rare animals die

Twenty-five animals including lizards, fruit bats and prairie dogs were suffocated by smoke in a fire at the Desert World section of the Island Amazon Adventure centre for endangered species at Newchurch, Isle of Wight.

THIS DORCHESTER KITCHEN

FOR UNDER **£1300**

UP TO **45% OFF** 46 SUPERB STYLES TO CHOOSE FROM

KITCHEN CABINETS

WHEN YOU BUY 3 OR MORE

£1251.78

Schreiber
The brilliant white, woodgrain embossed laminate finish, with square paneling is featured and highlighted with a fine grey coastline.

GREAT EXTRA VALUE OFFERS

1/2 PRICE

INTEGRATED DISHWASHER

Current list price £429.99

£199.99

OR **£200 OFF** any full size dishwasher from our range.

LUXURY WASTE DISPOSAL UNIT

Current in-store price £159.99

£79.99

GUARANTEED 20% LESS THAN ANY OTHER NATIONAL RETAILER'S QUOTE

HURRY! OFFER MUST END 19th MARCH

MFI

WHEN YOU SPEND £200 OR MORE (DISHWASHER OR £250 OR MORE (WASTE DISPOSAL UNIT) ON ANY HYUNDAI OR SCHREIBER KITCHEN OFFER LIMITED TO ONE PER CUSTOMER/HOUSEHOLD. NOT TRANSFERABLE TO ANY OTHER PRODUCT. (Offer applies to Hygents & Schreiber cabinets and accessories included in the Price List.)

SHOPPING HOURS: Mon 10-8, Tues 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-8, Sat 9-6, Sun 11-5.

NORTHERN IRELAND EXCEPTIONS: Mon 10-6, Wed 10-6, Thurs 10-6, Fri 10-8, Sat 10-6.

FOR YOUR NEAREST STORE PHONE 0800 192 192

MFI home works

Microdot will put burglars on spot

By PAUL WILKINSON

THE microdot, that favoured tool of the Cold War spy, has won a new role in the battle against burglary.

The dots that once held secret messages and were disguised as full stops in letters now contain a householder's postcode. They are being used to mark items that are likely to attract thieves.

With the dots attached by glue, their makers claim they are the ultimate deterrent to theft. "They are virtually invisible to the naked eye, about the size of a full stop," said David Northey, whose Luton-based company Alpha Scientific invested £2 million in developing the idea.

"A thief has no idea of how many, or where, the dots are," he said. "Even if he knows the piece has been treated and tries to remove them, he can never be sure if he has got them all."

The dots come suspended in a heavy-duty adhesive in a

bottle with a brush, similar to a pot of nail varnish. Each contains up to 1,000 microdots and the buyer can delicately blot or coat his item as he wishes. Each dot can include a postcode 60 or 70 times. There is an eye-catching label to be displayed in a prominent position for potential burglars to read.

The system was found to cut theft dramatically when Cleveland police offered it to people and organisations with vulnerable equipment in Stockton-on-Tees. Dots are also being offered on Jaguars, scattered throughout the cars.

Yesterday West Yorkshire Police began offering pots of dots to the public at a £7 discount on the usual price of £25 a bottle. Other forces will follow. West Yorkshire patrol cars are being issued with a combined magnifier and torch. It enlarges the dot more than 60 times to enable the information to be read.

Tourism hits new records

By DAREN GREGORIAN

A RECORD 26 million overseas visitors came to Britain last year, while a record 43 million Britons went abroad.

According to provisional figures from the Office of National Statistics, the rise in the number of visitors was due to a 12 per cent increase in tourists from western Europe, up from 15.3 million to 17.1 million.

The rise in visitors was an 8 per cent increase over the previous record year of 1995, and the amount they spent rose 5 per cent to a new high of £12.67 billion. It was the fifth successive year both visitor numbers and spending had risen, the report said.

The number of visitors from North America rose slightly, from 3.883 million to 3.896 million, and from the rest of the world from 4.799 million to 4.981 million.

The most popular destination for British tourists was western Europe, which saw 34.5 million visitors, up from 34.1 million in 1995. Almost 3.8 million Britons went to North America, up from 3.2 million the year before, and 5.1 million went to other areas of the world, up from 4.5 million in 1995.

41 MINS FREE

CALLS PER MONTH FOREVER*

NEW NOKIA 1611

FREE UP TO 41 MINS OF CALLS PER MONTH MONTHLY RENT FREE

FREE LEATHER CASE IN CAR ADAPTOR WITH UP TO 100 HOURS BATTERY

FREE NEXT DAY DELIVERY

PER SECOND BILLING

CONVERTER PHONE (230V) (240V) (250V) (260V) (270V) (280V) (290V) (300V) (310V) (320V) (330V) (340V) (350V) (360V) (370V) (380V) (390V) (400V) (410V) (420V) (430V) (440V) (450V) (460V) (470V) (480V) (490V) (500V) (510V) (520V) (530V) (540V) (550V) (560V) (570V) (580V) (590V) (600V) (610V) (620V) (630V) (640V) (650V) (660V) (670V) (680V) (690V) (700V) (710V) (720V) (730V) (740V) (750V) (760V) (770V) (780V) (790V) (800V) (810V) (820V) (830V) (840V) (850V) (860V) (870V) (880V) (890V) (900V) (910V) (920V) (930V) (940V) (950V) (960V) (970V) (980V) (990V) (1000V) (1010V) (1020V) (1030V) (1040V) (1050V) (1060V) (1070V) (1080V) (1090V) (1100V) (1110V) (1120V) (1130V) (1140V) (1150V) (1160V) (1170V) (1180V) (1190V) (1200V) (1210V) (1220V) (1230V) (1240V) (1250V) (1260V) (1270V) (1280V) (1290V) (1300V) (1310V) (1320V) (1330V) (1340V) (1350V) (1360V) (1370V) (1380V) (1390V) (1400V) (1410V) (1420V) (1430V) (1440V) (1450V) (1460V) (1470V) (1480V) (1490V) (1500V) (1510V) (1520V) (1530V) (1540V) (1550V) (1560V) (1570V) (1580V) (1590V) (1600V) (1610V) (1620V) (1630V) (1640V) (1650V) (1660V) (1670V) (1680V) (1690V) (1700V) (1710V) (1720V) (1730V) (1740V) (1750V) (1760V) (1770V) (1780V) (1790V) (1800V) (1810V) (1820V) (1830V) (1840V) (1850V) (1860V) (1870V) (1880V) (1890V) (1900V) (1910V) (1920V) (1930V) (1940V) (1950V) (1960V) (1970V) (1980V) (1990V) (2000V) (2010V) (2020V) (2030V) (2040V) (2050V) (2060V) (2070V) (2080V) (2090V) (2100V) (2110V) (2120V) (2130V) (2140V) (2150V) (2160V) (2170V) (2180V) (2190V) (2200V) (2210V) (2220V) (2230V) (2240V) (2250V) (2260V) (2270V) (2280V) (2290V) (2300V) (2310V) (2320V) (2330V) (2340V) (2350V) (2360V) (2370V) (2380V) (2390V) (2400V) (2410V) (2420V) (2430V) (2440V) (2450V) (2460V) (2470V) (2480V) (2490V) (2500V) (2510V) (2520V) (2530V) (2540V) (2550V) (2560V) (2570V) (2580V) (2590V) (2600V) (2610V) (2620V) (2630V) (2640V) (2650V) (2660V) (2670V) (2680V) (2690V) (2700V) (2710V) (2720V) (2730V) (2740V) (2750V) (2760V) (2770V) (2780V) (2790V) (2800V) (2810V) (2820V) (2830V) (2840V) (2850V) (2860V) (2870V) (2880V) (2890V) (2900V) (2910V) (2920V) (2930V) (2940V) (2950V) (2960V) (2970V) (2980V) (2990V) (3000V) (3010V) (3020V) (3030V) (3040V) (3050V) (3060V) (3070V) (3080V) (3090V) (3100V) (3110V) (3120V) (3130V) (3140V) (3150V) (3160V) (3170V) (3180V) (3190V) (3200V) (3210V) (3220V) (3230V) (3240V) (3250V) (3260V) (3270V) (3280V) (3290V) (3300V) (3310V) (3320V) (3330V) (3340V) (3350V) (3360V) (3370V) (3380V) (3390V) (3400V) (3410V) (3420V) (3430V) (3440V) (3450V) (3460V) (3470V) (3480V) (3490V) (3500V) (3510V) (3520V) (3530V) (3540V) (3550V) (3560V) (3570V) (3580V) (3590V) (3600V) (3610V) (3620V) (3630V) (3640V) (3650V) (3660V) (3670V) (3680V) (3690V) (3700V) (3710V) (3720V) (3730V) (3740V) (3750V) (3760V) (3770V) (3780V) (3790V) (3800V) (3810V) (3820V) (3830V) (3840V) (3850V) (3860V) (3870V) (3880V) (3890V) (3900V) (3910V) (3920V) (3930V) (3940V) (3950V) (3960V) (3970V) (3980V) (3990V) (4000V) (4010V) (4020V) (4030V) (4040V) (4050V) (4060V) (4070V) (4080V) (4090V) (4100V) (4110V) (4120V) (4130V) (4140V) (4150V) (4160V) (4170V) (4180V) (4190V) (4200V) (4210V) (4220V) (4230V) (4240V) (4250V) (4260V) (4270V) (4280V) (4290V) (4300V) (4310V) (4320V) (4330V) (4340V) (4350V) (4360V) (4370V) (4380V) (4390V) (4400V) (4410V) (4420V) (4430V) (4440V) (4450V) (4460V) (4470V) (4480V) (4490V) (4500V) (4510V) (4520V) (4530V) (4540V) (4550V) (4560V) (4570V) (4580V) (4590V) (4600V) (4610V) (4620V) (4630V) (4640V) (4650V) (4660V) (4670V) (4680V) (4690V) (4700V) (4710V) (4720V) (4730V) (4740V) (4750V) (4760V) (4770V) (4780V) (4790V) (4800V) (4810V) (4820V) (4830V) (4840V) (4850V) (4860V) (4870V) (4880V) (4890V) (4900V) (4910V) (4920V) (4930V) (4940V) (4950V) (4960V) (4970V) (4980V) (4990V) (5000V) (5010V) (5020V) (5030V) (5040V) (5050V) (5060V) (5070V) (5080V) (5090V) (5100V) (5110V) (5120V) (5130V) (5140V) (5150V) (5160V) (5170V) (5180V) (5190V) (5200V) (5210V) (5220V) (5230V) (5240V) (5250V) (5260V) (5270V) (5280V) (5290V) (5300V) (5310V) (5320V) (5330V) (5340V) (5350V) (5360V) (5370V) (5380V) (5390V) (5400V) (5410V) (5420V) (5430V) (5440V) (5450V) (5460V) (5470V) (5480V) (5490V) (5500V) (5510V) (5520V) (5530V) (5540V) (5550V) (5560V) (5570V) (5580V) (5590V) (5600V) (5610V) (5620V) (5630V) (5640V) (5650V) (5660V) (5670V) (5680V) (5690V) (5700V) (5710V) (5720V) (5730V) (5740V) (5750V) (5760V) (5770V) (5780V) (5790V) (5800V) (5810V) (5820V) (5830V) (5840V) (5850V) (5860V) (5870V) (5880V) (5890V) (5900V) (5910V) (5920V) (5930V) (5940V) (5950V) (5960V) (5970V) (5980V) (5990V) (6000V) (6010V) (6020V) (6030V) (6040V) (6050V) (6060V) (6070V) (6080V) (6090V) (6100V) (6110V) (6120V) (6130V) (6140V) (6150V) (6160V) (6170V) (6180V) (6190V) (6200V) (6210V) (6220V) (6230V) (6240V) (6250V) (6260V) (6270V) (6280V) (6290V) (6300V) (6310V) (6320V) (6330V) (6340V) (6350V) (6360V) (6370V) (6380V) (6390V) (6400V) (6410V) (6420V) (6430V) (6440V) (6450V) (6460V) (6470V) (6480V) (6490V) (6500V) (6510V) (6520V) (6530V) (6540V) (6550V) (6560V) (6570V) (6580V) (6590V) (6600V) (6610V) (6620V) (6630V) (6640V) (6650V) (6660V) (6670V) (6680V) (6690V) (6700V) (6710V) (6720V) (6730V) (6740V) (6750V) (6760V) (6770V) (6780V) (6790V) (6800V) (6810V) (6820V) (6830V) (6840V) (6850V) (6860V) (6870V) (6880V) (6890V) (6900V) (6910V) (6920V) (6930V) (6940V) (6950V) (6960V) (6970V) (6980V) (6990V) (7000V) (7010V) (7020V) (7030V) (7040V) (7050V) (7060V) (7070V) (7080V) (7090V) (7100V) (7110V) (7120V) (7130V) (7140V) (7150V) (7160V) (7170V) (7180V) (7190V) (7200V) (7210V) (7220V) (7230V) (7240V) (7250V) (7260V) (7270V) (7280V) (7290V) (7300V) (7310V) (7320V) (7330V) (7340V) (7350V) (7360V) (7370V) (7380V) (7390V) (7400V) (7410V) (7420V) (7430V) (7440V) (7450V) (7460V) (7470V) (7480V) (7490V) (7500V) (7510V) (7520V) (7530V) (7540V) (7550V) (7560V) (7570V) (7580V) (7590V) (7600V) (7610V) (7620V) (7630V) (7640V) (7650V) (7660V) (7670V) (7680V) (7690V) (7700V) (7710V) (7720V) (7730V) (7740V) (7750V) (7760V) (7770V) (7780V) (7790V) (7800V) (7810V) (7820V) (7830V) (7840V) (7850V) (7860V) (7870V) (7880V) (7890V) (7900V) (7910V) (7920V) (7930V) (7940V) (7950V) (7960V) (7970V) (7980V) (7990V) (8000V) (8010V) (8020V) (8030V) (8040V) (8050V) (8060V) (8070V) (8080V) (8090V) (8100V) (8110V) (8120V) (8130V) (8140V) (8150V) (8160V) (8170V) (8180V) (8190V) (8200V) (8210V) (8220V) (8230V) (8240V) (8250V) (8260V) (8270V) (8280V) (8290V) (8300V) (8310V) (8320V) (8330V) (8340V) (8350V) (8360V) (8370V) (8380V) (8390V) (8400V) (8410V) (8420V) (8430V) (8440V) (8450V) (8460V) (8470V) (8480V) (8490V) (8500V) (8510V) (8520V) (8530V) (8540V) (8550V) (8560V) (8570V) (8580V) (8590V) (8600V) (8610V) (8620V) (8630V) (8640V) (8650V) (8660V) (8670V) (8680V) (8690V) (8700V) (8710V) (8720V) (8730V) (8740V) (8750V) (8760V) (8770V) (8780V) (8790V) (8800V) (8810V) (8820V) (8830V) (8840V) (8850V) (8860V) (8870V) (8880V) (8890V) (8900V) (8910V) (8920V) (8930V) (8940V) (8950V) (8960V) (8970V) (8980V) (8990V) (9000V) (9010V) (9020V) (9030V) (9040V) (9050V) (9060V) (9070V) (9080V) (9090V) (9100V) (9110V) (9120V) (9130V) (9140V) (9150V) (9160V) (9170V) (9180V) (9190V) (9200V) (9210V) (9220V) (9230V) (9240V) (9250V) (9260V) (9270V) (9280V) (9290V) (9300V) (9310V) (9320V) (9330V) (9340V) (9350V) (9360V) (9370V) (9380V) (9390V) (9400V) (9410V) (9420V) (9430V) (9440V) (9450V) (9460V) (9470V) (9480V) (9490V) (9500V) (9510V) (9520V) (9530V) (9540V) (9550V) (9560V) (9570V) (9580V) (9590V) (9600V) (9610V) (9620V) (9630V) (9640V) (9650V) (9660V) (9670V) (9680V) (9690V) (9700V) (9710V) (9720V) (9730V) (9740V) (9750V) (9760V) (9770V) (9780V) (9790V) (9800V) (9810V) (9820V) (9830V) (9840V) (9850V) (9860V) (9870V) (9880V) (9890V) (9900V) (9910V) (9920V) (9930V) (9940V) (9950V) (9960V) (9970V) (9980V) (9990V) (10000V) (10010V) (10020V) (10030V) (10040V) (10050V) (10060V) (10070V) (10080V) (10090V) (10100V) (10110V) (10120V) (10130V) (10140V) (10150V) (10160V) (10170V) (10180V) (10190V) (10200V) (10210V) (10220V) (10230V) (10240V) (10250V) (10260V) (10270V) (10280V) (10290V) (10300V

Princess reaches secret cash deal with sacked maid

By CAROL MIDGLEY

A ROYAL housemaid who claimed she had been unfairly sacked by Diana, Princess of Wales, accepted a compensation deal yesterday which she described as "better than winning the lottery".

Sylvia McDermott, 44, who spent nine years cleaning the royal apartments at Kensington Palace, came to an amicable agreement with lawyers acting for the Princess minutes before an industrial tribunal case for unfair dismissal was about to start.

"Miss McDermott, who had earlier rejected an offer of £5,500, declared that she was 'very happy' with the settlement, reached in a consultation room at Croydon Industrial Tribunal. The amount has not been disclosed. Smiling broadly, she said: 'It's been a horrible six months but it's all over and I'm really pleased with the outcome. If you believe in something, fight for it because everyone deserves justice.' Asked if it was like winning the National Lottery, she replied: 'It's better than that'.

The Princess was equally claiming victory. A statement issued by her office said that Miss McDermott accepted that she had been made redundant rather than unfairly

dismissed and had dropped her demand to be reinstated. It added that her compensation settlement was "considerably less" than the maximum of £11,300 that a tribunal can award.

"Diana, Princess of Wales is delighted that a settlement has been reached which vindicates the position she has adopted all along", the statement said. "The applicant was dismissed on September 20, 1996 and was informed that this was for reasons of redundancy."

The applicant has now agreed that she was dismissed by reason of redundancy, she has abandoned her claim for reinstatement and she has accepted a sum by way of compensation very substantially below what she had been demanding.

Miss McDermott, from Co Durham, earned £9,000 a year with the Royal Household and was given a grace-and-favour flat for her duties, which often included travelling abroad. After the Prince and Princess of Wales separated in 1992, she remained with the Princess. She was expected to tell the tribunal that she had had two meetings with her employer, who had complained about the standard of her work, and was told she

was being made redundant. She was to have claimed that another maid was immediately appointed to fill her post.

At 10.30am yesterday the parties entered the tribunal room and David Pannick, QC, for the Princess, told the chairman, Jane Mason, that a "full and final" settlement had been reached which was to remain confidential. The hearing lasted four minutes and no witnesses were called nor evidence given. The Princess's valet, Paul Burrell, who was believed to have been a possible witness, appeared but left without commenting.

Miss McDermott, who has moved in with her partner since losing her home, left the building arm in arm with her barrister, Anu Kapoor. She thanked her lawyers, friends and family but declined to reveal her career plans. "I want to go on with the future now," she said.

She is the latest member of staff who have left the Princess's employ. Last year her chauffeur, Steve Davies, resigned, as did her personal assistant, Nicky Cockell, and her public relations adviser Jane Atkinson. In January this year the Princess parted company with Victoria Mendham, one of her closest aides.



Sylvia McDermott yesterday: the payment "was better than winning the lottery"

Theatre is torn by 'Stitch and Bitch' row

By GLEN OWEN

TWO female costume makers took the management of the National Theatre to an industrial tribunal yesterday, claiming they had allowed "a culture of sexism" to flourish during last year's production of *Mary Stuart*.

Joan Coleman and Nicky James claimed that their manager referred to them as "Stitch" and "Bitch". They told the hearing at Croydon, south London, that they were sexually discriminated against by Kate Morrow Smith after she brought disciplinary proceedings against them in March 1996. Ms Morrow Smith said they had failed to supply a dress on time for Isabelle Huppert, lead in *Mary Stuart*.

The women also claim that despite being aware of "sexist and derogatory references" the theatre's management took no action and allowed a disciplinary process without foundation to continue.

Mrs Coleman denied that she had been abusive to the wardrobe supervisor who had arrived to collect the dress. She claimed that she had politely refused to supply the dress because it still had pins in it.

The women claim that they are now unable to work normally at the theatre. Mrs Coleman said she was being ignored by colleagues and kept out of plans for future shows. The hearing continues.

SATURDAY
IN THE TIMES

WIN A DESIGNER WARDROBE

Your chance to win the dress of your dreams in the Magazine

THE GOOD BUY

Robert Crampton on shopping as a creative act in

Weekend

PLUS

1015, Car 97, Directory, and Weekend Money

We're all looking for a yellow submarine

BOUNTY hunters were scouring the beaches of Norfolk yesterday for a yellow submarine missing in the North Sea. A £20,000 reward has been offered for finding the 9ft-long vessel, which was surveying the seabed.

The remotely controlled £200,000 mini-sub slipped the "umbilical cord" connecting it to its mother ship and was lost two miles off Bacton. *Super Scorpio (SS Explorer)* is likely to be washed up within

the next few days after boats and helicopters hired by Submersible Television Systems failed to find it.

The submarine, one of eight owned by the Aberdeen-based company and the first it has lost, is likely to surface between Great Yarmouth and Cromer, a distance of about 25 miles. The top of the 5ft-high sub features a bright yellow buoyancy aid and the base is an aluminium frame fitted with cameras.

HOUSE INSURANCE

SAVE UP TO 50% OR MORE
e.g. LONDON & HOME COUNTIES
£100,000 Buildings Sum Insured
Premium Only £154.00
LOWER Premiums in most Other Areas
0345 123111
At calls charged at local rate
Ask for a quote on the Internet: <http://www.hhh.co.uk>

Hill House Hammond
Cutting The Cost Of Your Insurance

He'd like to talk to you about conditions in prison.

READY TO LISTEN?

Every prison has a Board of Visitors - a group of ordinary members of the public who monitor the running of the prison and provide an impartial voice for prisoners.

Members of the Board are appointed by the Home Secretary and report to him on all aspects of prison life.

To join us you won't need any special qualifications - common sense and the ability to keep an open mind are the most important qualities - together with the commitment to spend about two days each month talking to prisoners and prison staff. There is no age limit, but young people are particularly encouraged to apply.

We can't offer you any pay, but we will cover your expenses, and give you complete freedom of access to the institution you represent. In short it's the kind of challenge that brings its own rewards.

To find out more, complete the coupon and send it to: Recruitment Section, Home Office, Boards of Visitors, 3rd Floor, Horseferry House, Dean Ryle Street, Westminster, London SW1P 2AW.

BOV
BOARDS OF VISITORS

The Independent Prison Watchdog

Mr/Mrs/Ms/Ms

Name

Address

Postcode

Ref: TMS

Currys

New HOOVER Pure Power Save up to £90

PurePower
TOTAL FILTRATION WITH POWER

- 1 Advanced new Filtration Range - Cleaners that filter out up to 99.97% of dirt and dust
- 2 No leakage of dust with unique Hoover gasket
- 3 5' Class exhaust filter - as used in hospitals (Model 3141)
- 4 Up to 1400w motors provide up to 40% more cleaning power
- 5 25% lighter to make your life easier
- 6 The quietest range of upright cleaners Hoover have ever made
- 7 Energy saving autosense
- 8 Extra reach hose and Wide Track cleaning width

HOOVER Pure Power Upright Cleaner

■ 1200 watt motor
■ 7 stage filtration
■ 25% lighter
■ Self sealing bag
Model Pure Power U3120
Was £209.99

CURRYS PRICE
£129.99

HOOVER Pure Power Upright Cleaner

■ 1300 watt variable motor
■ High 7 stage filtration
■ Built-in air freshener
■ Self sealing bag
Model Pure Power U3130
Was £239.99

CURRYS PRICE
£149.99

HOOVER Pure Power Upright Cleaner

■ 1400 watt autosense power
■ Hygienic dirt disposal
■ Permabag
■ Built-in air freshener
Model Pure Power U3140
Price excluding trade-in £279.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER, SELECTED CREDITSTORES ONLY

TRADE-IN PRICE
£179.99

HOOVER Pure Power Upright Cleaner

■ 1400 watt autosense power
■ Ultra 5-Stage Filtration
■ 99.97% filtration level
■ Power Boost
Model Pure Power U3141
Price excluding trade-in £299.99
BUY NOW PAY 6 MONTHS LATER

TRADE-IN PRICE
£199.99

SAVE UP TO £50

HOOVER Upright Cleaner
■ 450 watt motor
■ Edge to edge cleaning
■ Carpet height selector
Model U2800
Price excluding trade-in £99.99
PRICE TODAY
Ask for details
TRADE-IN PRICE
£69.99

HOOVER Cylinder Cleaner
■ 1200 watt motor
■ Variable power
■ Bag check indicator
Model SC100 FREEDOM
Was £129.99
CURRYS PRICE
£79.99

HOOVER Cylinder Cleaner
■ 1300 watt motor
■ Bag check indicator
Model SC100
Was £139.99
CURRYS PRICE
£109.99

HOOVER Cylinder Cleaner with Wash Facility
■ Powerful 1250 watt motor
■ Carpet and upholstery shampooer
■ Hard floor washing/drying
Model S4514
Was £179.99
CURRYS PRICE
£139.99

LOWEST PRICES ON THE SPOT
Find a lower price for the same product and offer, complete, new, boxed and in stock in a local shop within 7 days of purchase and we'll match it.
We'll never be beaten

Currys **BRITAIN'S BIGGEST ELECTRICAL STORE**

EXCLUSIVES
2 DAY DELIVERY MONDAY TO FRIDAY
TAKE IT HOME NOW
SAME DAY SERVICE
AWARD WINNING IN-STORE REPAIR SERVICE
EASY WAYS TO PAY

only Currys bring you all this

Major says reforms offer new security in old age

By Jill Sherman
Chief Political Correspondent

THE Government's pension plans are the "most fundamental enhancement" of the state scheme since it was introduced, the Prime Minister said yesterday.

Under the plans, people in their early twenties and below will be given rebates from their national insurance contributions of £9 a week to put into personalised pension funds as soon as they start their first job.

The state earnings related pension scheme would also disappear although the Government would top up each person's pension fund with 5 per cent of their earnings every year. Individuals would be able to add their own contributions to the funds.

The Government hopes that the sum accrued would be more than the current state pension entitlement of £61.15 a week, but Mr Major insisted that if necessary the State would be prepared to step in to top up the income.

The "Basic Pension Plus" scheme will not take effect until the end of the next Parliament at the earliest, if the Tories win the general election. The changes will be phased in over a generation and will not affect those in work who are already in their twenties or older or existing pensioners.

Mr Major said the package was about increasing security in retirement, not threatening it. "The proposals we are announcing today will do that."

GOVERNMENT SCHEME

by enabling every young person to accumulate an investment fund that could yield considerably more than their basic state pension entitlement.

He insisted that the State would continue to guarantee that everyone would receive at least their basic state pension, uprated at minimum for inflation. Peter Lilley, Social Security Secretary, said that a person on average earnings could expect to build up a fund worth £130,000, which would provide a pension of £175 a week. This is based on someone earning £350 a week and the assumption that the funds will earn a 4.25 per cent annual rate of return.

Mr Lilley said that if the economy and investments did well the returns could be even better. "If returns are 1 per cent higher than assumed, they will get a pension nearly 30 per cent above the basic

pension. If the yield is 2 per cent higher, the pension could be over 70 per cent higher."

But Labour sources insisted it was highly unlikely that the funds would achieve more than the basic state pension.

The aim of the scheme will be to switch the financing of state pensions to savings and investments funded from reductions in national insurance contributions rather than through taxes and charges.

Mr Lilley said that in the longer term the Government could save £40 billion a year. But there will be considerable medium-term costs for which ever party is in government. Mr Major said that the scheme would not be fully implemented till 2040.

The Government would be faced with a bill of £160 million a year, from the time the plans became law, which would build up exponentially to a peak of £7 billion a year in

2040. Tory party sources point out that £13 billion has already been saved by equalising the state pension age at 65 and gradually phasing out Serps.

They denied that tax rises would be needed in the next Parliament to pay for the costs, but did not rule out tax rises in future. They also admitted that income tax cuts would be much harder to achieve once the high costs of the changes started biting.

Social security sources said that no one would lose out under the plans. The unemployed would get credits towards a guaranteed basic pension, as would the sick and the disabled. However, the credits would not be invested in the fund, so those people would not get the chance to boost their pensions through investment while they were out of work.

Non-working housewives, will as now be entitled to half the basic state pension, irrespective of whether they have ever worked. Those in employment will also have the right to a separate pension fund.

Mr Lilley also announced tax relief changes. Payments to pension funds will no longer be tax deductible but no tax will be levied on the pension once it has built up.

Mr Major said the reforms were a fine example of Conservative thinking. "It is a reform that reflects the best traditions of this Government's philosophy. It is dealing with the long-term issues in a far-sighted way."

Leading article, page 19

Idea's time had come

THE Tories' biggest manifesto idea so far took shape as Peter Lilley relaxed at his French holiday home last year (Philip Webster writes). He had heralded plans for overall pension reform in his Mais lecture of 1993, but with his long-time special adviser Peter Barnes felt that other aspects must come first.

Back from France, Mr Lilley, influenced by his study of the Chilean system, bounced his ideas off David

Willets and Danny Finkelstein, both former heads of think tanks that had examined pensions.

Around the turn of the year Mr Lilley took his proposals to the Prime Minister. Secrecy was paramount — there was a history of leaks on social security matters. A handful of ministers were told but not until Tuesday was the reform discussed by the Cabinet's home affairs committee.

Labour's reaction is depressing kneejerk politics at its worst

John Major yesterday produced the first Big Idea of the 1997 campaign, and an original and far-sighted one it is too. Of course, there are many questions and loose ends. But the boldness of the Basic Pension Plus plan — devised by Peter Lilley, like many of the Government's most radical proposals — contrasts with Labour's caution on policy.

The initiative offers an interesting and attractive long-term solution to the steadily rising cost of providing pensions for an ageing population. It involves extending the principle that, while the State should remain responsible for

guaranteeing that everyone has a minimum income on retirement, there is no reason why a pension cannot be provided by the private sector. This already happens with second pensions for those opting out of Serps. The Government will, however, have to offer more reassurance about the management of such private funds after the controversy over mis-selling of personal pension schemes and worries over high administrative costs.

Moreover, a funded scheme offers the probability of a higher pension than merely inflation-proofing a fixed cash sum. This should ensure that pensioners are

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

better off unless you take an extraordinarily pessimistic view about long-term investment returns. In that case, public sector finances would probably be so bad that any pension guarantee would have to be broken.

Shifting from a pay-as-you-go to a funded basis inevitably involves transitional costs as some younger taxpayers both pay for existing pensions and their own provision. The very long phasing-in period and the end of tax relief for pension

contributions reduces the additional cost. The total net cost will rise to nearly £7 billion a year by 2040. This is smaller than the current Serps rebates and the costs over 40 years are a fraction of the rise in tax revenues that occurs as a result of a growing economy.

Gordon Brown sounded affronted yesterday at the very suggestion of a proposal that might cost money, even over 40 years. He is perhaps entitled to a few moments of outrage given the extravagant and exaggerated Tory charges he has had to face in recent months about alleged Labour spending commitments. But his talk of the

"huge" implications for spending and tax rises is wildly over the top. Moreover, he knows that any long-term solution involves additional spending for a time.

Labour's reaction was a depressing example of knee-jerk opposition politics at its worst. Several of its claims were either wrong or alarmist. Harriet Harman's comment about the abolition of the basic state pension is misleading since after 2040 the state will still guarantee an inflation-proofed pension. References to denial of security and choice are grossly misleading, while saying people will be forced into private provision and pejorative

references to "privatisation" are hardly "new" Labour. The party's strategists have decided to play short-term electoral politics, ignoring the fact that if Labour wins the election it will face exactly the same dilemmas and will have to shift provision more to the private sector.

Of course, the Tories are also playing an electoral game. As Labour complained, announcing the proposals in the pre-election period is hardly the best way to secure a cross-party consensus. But the plan is a rare example of a government being willing to think long-term, even though there are

no obvious short-term financial or political benefits. The likely gains will not even start to retire for at least 40 to 45 years. The Tories intend to pitch their appeal to parents — "we are going to look after your children and their pensions". Labour's scare campaign — "you cannot trust the Tories with your pension" — may, however, be more effective. But it is paradoxical that the most adventurous policy ideas are coming from a party which has been in government for 18 years, while the Opposition prefers a safety-first approach.

PETER RIDDELL

Up to **6.85%** Gross P.A.

If you like the look of this number

call this one

01624 66 35 66

quoting ref: PP024

If you're looking for a good home for your savings our new Premier Plus account offers security and some of the most attractive interest rates currently available. Interest is paid without the deduction of tax. With tiered interest rates the more you save, the more you earn.

A Bonus

If you make no withdrawals in the course of a year we will reward you with a bonus of 1.5% gross interest per annum. Do this each year and you will continue to earn the same annual bonus.

And a High Level of Service

Running your account is easy. You can contact us 24 hours a day, by phone, fax or by post, to request withdrawals or information about your account. And of course, your account will be handled in the strictest confidence at all times.

To take advantage of our new Premier Plus account just phone us now on 01624 66 35 66.

☒ Attractive interest rates ☒ Choice of monthly or annual income ☒ 24 hour phone and fax service ☒ Interest paid without the deduction of tax

Alliance & Leicester International Ltd, PO Box 225, 10-12 Prescot Hill, Douglas, Isle of Man, IM9 1BY. Fax No. 01624 61 72 86

**ALLIANCE
LEICESTER
INTERNATIONAL**

LOOK

how we got to No.2 in Laser Printers*

- HL-730**
6 pages per minute,
600 dots per inch,
Straight paper path
- HL-760**
6 pages per minute,
1200 x 600 dots per inch,
Straight paper path
- HL-1260c**
12 pages per minute,
1200 dots per inch,
2Mb/6Mb models available,
Network capability
- HL-1660**
16 pages per minute,
1200 dots per inch,
4Mb/10Mb models available,
High volume duplex printing,
Network capability

Comprehensive product range

Award winning machines

Models to suit customer needs

Extensive dealer network

High level of after-sales care

To make it to No.2 in the laser printer market, you've got to be more than just big - you've got to be good.

Good machines, good service, good prices: they all make the second biggest a first rate choice.

For more details call:

0345 535 100

Quoting Ref: TM039

brother®

More than just features

Brother U.K. Ltd, Audenshaw, Manchester M34 5JD,
Brother Industries Limited, Nagoya, Japan
sales@uk.brother.co.uk
http://www.brother.com

*The HL-730 is a versatile and easy-to-use with true 600dpi resolution, not clouded by any resolution enhancement twiddles. PC Print - October 1996 "Value Award"

"A very appealing machine combining high quality, ease of use and a low price." What PC? - October 1996

"Offering best performance, ease of use and flexibility, the HL-730 is a sure-fire winner, especially given heavy discounting." Computer Buyer - December 1996 "Home Office/Managing Winnet"

0345 535 100

"...big benefits in
ride and handling..."

"...bang up to date
electronically..."

"...smooth, crisp
and punchy..."

"...significantly faster..."

"...impressive
acceleration..."

"...a muted snarl..."



BE HONEST, DOES THIS SOUND LIKE A DIESEL?

The sluggish acceleration. The dreaded engine rattle. The lack of refinement. Where are these standard features of any diesel to be found on the Rover 400? Nowhere, according to Diesel Car Magazine's review. Instead they found all the usual Rover comforts, plus rattling good performance. Without the rattling, of course. Call 0345 186 186, or contact your local Rover dealer, for a test drive.



فيلسوف

Tirana moderate calls for broad-based government coalition to end growing spiral of violence

Opposition accuses Britain of giving lifeline to Berisha

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN TIRANA

AS ALBANIA descended further into outright civil war yesterday, a leading member of the Albanian Opposition accused Britain of "having given Berisha enough oxygen to become a dictator".

Neritan Ceka, leader of the Democratic Alliance and a potential successor should President Berisha fall, said "whereas some Western countries, such as Italy and the United States, have put serious pressure on Berisha to form a broad-based coalition to solve the national crisis, the British Government has largely supported him".

He said "certain forces on the right wing of the Conservative Party" seemed prepared to back Mr Berisha even when he used the feared secret police to enforce a state of emergency. "I regret to say the same is

true of some sections of Chancellor Kohl's Christian Democratic party in Bonn," he told *The Times* in an interview.

"It is high time Britain and Germany cut off his air supply." He applauded Washington's strong condemnation this week of Mr Berisha's state of emergency and his "stifling of free expression".

Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, said yesterday that, if a "broad-based government" was established in Tirana, Italy would be ready to send troops to help to restore order. He told *La Repubblica* the only way forward lay through an interim coalition involving both members of Mr Berisha's Democratic Party and the Opposition, followed by "fair elections" within 45 days.

Signor Dini rejected Mr

Berisha's charge that the revolt had been instigated by "Red terrorists", saying it was clearly a "spontaneous rebellion of the people". He added: "Italy is prepared to send financial and technical aid to help an economic recovery."

Italy, only 40 miles across the Adriatic from Albania, fears a repetition of the exodus of desperate Albanians which followed the collapse of the Communist regime in 1991.

Western diplomats in Tirana said that, as the Government increasingly lost control of the situation, the search was on for "credible" figures who might serve in an interim administration and even form a new government.

Mr Ceka, a dapper, silver-haired archaeologist and political moderate, is regarded as a respected figure acceptable to



An Italian soldier guards the old MiG15 flown by two defecting Albanian pilots. Tirana denied their claim that they were told to shoot at civilians.

Right and Left. His Democratic Alliance is a breakaway group from the ruling Democratic Party and was formed by former Berisha loyalists. They gave a warning after Mr Berisha's landslide election victory in 1992 that the Democratic Party was becoming as monolithic as the Communist Party it replaced.

"This armed uprising could

be ended tomorrow if Berisha agreed to a cross-party coalition," Mr Ceka said. He agreed there were mafia gunmen, criminals and provocateurs among the rebels, "but most are ordinary people who blame Berisha for the collapse of the pyramid funds and want him out. He has become an outright dictator. If he

agreed to a government which

included the Opposition, I guarantee that people would lay down their guns."

The Democratic Alliance is one of 11 parties in the Forum for Democracy formed last month in response to the crisis. Its chairman is Kurd Kola, a respected former political prisoner under the Enver Hoxha regime. He is also seen as a potential leader.

Another opposition contender for power is Fatos Nano, the former Socialist (ex-Communist) leader, jailed by Mr Berisha in 1994 for 12 years on charges of corruption. His cause has been taken up by Amnesty International and the Left has dubbed him the "Nelson Mandela of Albania".

Many Albanians, however, remain distrustful of the So-

cialists, who form the core of the Forum for Democracy, since they include some unrepentant Communist militants. Mr Ceka said he firmly believed that if the Socialists gained power they would work with centrists such as himself in the Forum. "But the first priority is an interim government of all parties to restore order."

Desperate nation hangs on BBC's treasured words

BY MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THREE times a day, amid rioting, tension and lawlessness, Albania's city streets fall still: the nation is listening to the BBC. Virtually the sole source of news commanding the trust of Government and Opposition, the demonstrators and the desperate, is the Albanian service beamed on short wave from Bush House.

Never has the BBC's credibility been so urgently tested. President Berisha has accused it of stirring up violence. The local FM transmitter was switched off after the declaration of emergency, and secret police threatened journalists. Phones have been bugged and cut. Freelance reporters, fearing for their lives, have been urged by London to stay indoors.

Yet every politician, every faction, hangs on London's words and is clamouring to make its voice heard. "Tell him we don't broadcast declarations," Tim Cooke, the Albanian service head, called across the room yesterday to a broadcaster being harangued down the phone line by an ethnic Greek Albanian MP. "We can interview him."

The British newspaper editorials had just been translated and transmitted, together with the interview by Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign

Secretary, on the Radio 4 *Today* programme. A few minutes later Namek Dokle, one of the Socialist (former Communist) leaders was on the line, trying to put his view.

The Albanian service, started four years ago after a break of 25 years, is manned by eight Albanian staff. Their families back home are receiving death threats. No one has slept more than a few hours this past week.

As the plug was pulled in Albania, short-wave broadcasts began transmission from London and Cyprus; one 30-minute broadcast has been given an extra 15 minutes, and Mr Cooke hopes the other two will be 45 minutes soon. President Berisha, irritated by unprecedented questioning of his Democratic Party programme, has little time for the BBC, for three years he has refused to give it an interview.

Mr Cooke is bitter at the pressure being put on his correspondents. But he does not doubt their influence. As the Democratic Party held a crisis meeting three weeks ago on whether Aleksander Meksi should resign, the Prime Minister kept slipping away. He was calling the BBC correspondent to find out what was happening in Vlore.

20% off.



BT cut 20% off calls to the USA and Canada.

5 minute weekend call to USA and Canada	Before Feb. 19th	From Feb. 19th	Percentage Reduction	Price with Friends & Family and PremierLine
	£1.31	£1.05	20%	78.2p

The latest price cuts. Call 24hr. Freefone 0800 003 800 to see how much you could save. BT

SOME IDD PRICES UNCHANGED. DIRECT DIALED CALLS ONLY. EXCLUDES BT PUBLIC PAYPHONE AND BT CHARGECARD CALLS. FRIENDS & FAMILY IS AVAILABLE ON ONE INTERNATIONAL NUMBER AND IS NOT AVAILABLE WITH THE LIGHT USER SCHEME. FRIENDS & FAMILY DISCOUNTS NORMALLY START WITHIN 14 DAYS. PREMIERLINE SUBSCRIPTION IS £6 PER QUARTER.

Where?

are the best camp sites in Brittany

Whatever holiday advice you're looking for, you can trust Which? Online to give you informed and impartial guidance. And Which? Online gives you that advice on your computer screen. So whether you want to know the best tour operator, where to go for a weekend break, which airline has the best safety record or how to turn winter into summer with a trip to New Zealand, Which? Online will answer your questions 24 hours a day, every day.

A subscription to Which? Online also gives you fast unlimited Internet access with 24 hour customer support. Now one of the biggest sites in Europe, Which? Online is your gateway to a wealth of consumer information on an extraordinary range of subjects - from holidays to health, and from finance to gardening - and it allows you to talk directly to our experts and other members.

Which? Online brings you:

- fast unlimited Internet access
- exclusive access to Which? information
- member and Which? expert discussion groups
- e-mail address
- excellent customer service

For an information pack, including details of a free trial offer, call the number below or visit our web site.

WHICH?online
0345 300 191
quote reference 3AD97J

Swiss plan a £3bn fund in memory of Holocaust victims

FROM PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

THE Swiss Government has offered to use about £3 billion of Switzerland's gold reserves for a "solidarity foundation" for victims of genocide and catastrophe worldwide.

The announcement was made by President Koller to a joint session of parliament yesterday in a speech on Switzerland's record during the Second World War.

He said the foundation was designed to prove the nation's gratitude for being spared two world wars and to show compassion for Holocaust victims. It must, however, be approved by parliament. "If we want to give new meaning to the sense of solidarity and to public spirit, then we must do something capable of easing today's and tomorrow's suffering," he said.

Although the Swiss appear to be assuaging international criticism of their wartime record with inquiries and compensation arrangements, the four-party collegial Government is facing a new battle at home. In an apparent change of mind, Mr Koller said that the national bank would also pay £45 million to a separate humanitarian fund for Holocaust victims, set up last week with Jewish groups. The three biggest Swiss banks have made a similar contribution. Until now the Government had insisted it would

decide on payments once it had received a first set of findings from an independent commission of experts investigating Switzerland's dealings with the Nazis.

The commission has promised to deliver in June an account of Switzerland's wartime refugee policy and the national bank's gold trade with the Third Reich. Swiss historians expect some of the details to be "uncomfortable".

Mr Koller said that the Swiss owed it to themselves to accept their past as it was: "We should not be ashamed of being spared by the war; we had the right to survive." But he added: "Through a lack of courage, people arriving at our borders in great distress were sent to certain death."

Israel cuts cash for survivor aid

Jerusalem: A row erupted yesterday over disclosure that the Israeli Government has cut funds for the only Israeli group providing emotional support for Holocaust survivors and their children from about £100,000 to £20,000 (Christopher Walker writes). "It is a shame and a disgrace," said Sheva Weiss of the opposition Labour Party.

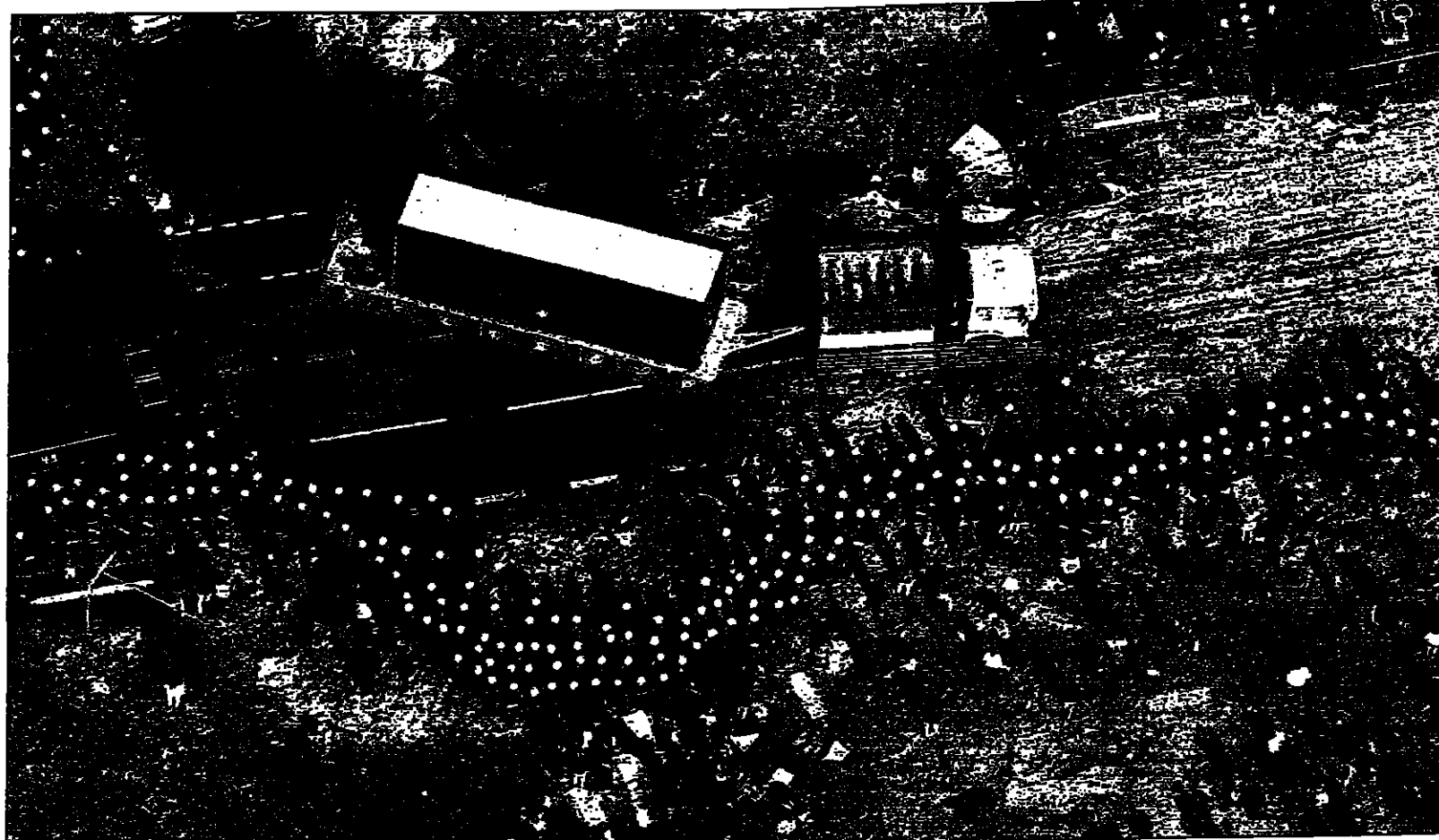
There, generosity would have been possible or necessary."

The foundation would take about two years to set up, although ministers want it to coincide if possible with next year's celebrations of the 50th anniversary of the founding of modern Switzerland.

The national bank said that the gold sales would take place over a period of ten years and would not disrupt world markets or the stability of the Swiss franc. The foundation is to be financed by valuation gains on gold reserves. By investing its start-up capital, the foundation would generate income of at least £100 million a year, allowing its work to last for decades.

The proposal was welcomed by Israel and Jewish groups. But rightwingers, including the Swiss People's Party, one of the government parties, signalled their unhappiness with the presidential statement. Christoph Blocher, one of its leaders, said the Government had "lost its head". He accused ministers of giving in to foreign pressure. Mr Blocher, who successfully campaigned to keep Switzerland out of the European Union, said the Swiss should not use public funds to compensate for legitimate wartime trade with Germany.

Leading article, page 19



An aerial view of German riot police guarding a nuclear waste transporter as it leaves Dannenberg railway station for the Gorleben dump

Beaten anti-nuclear 'army' prompts rethink

FROM ROGER BOYES IN GORLEBEN

THOUSANDS of German protesters reluctantly allowed a heavily guarded 700-tonne delivery of nuclear waste to end its 48-hour trek yesterday.

But they celebrated a kind of victory: by the day's end many mainstream German politicians, shocked by the resistance, agreed that this should be the last shipment to

Gorleben. Petrol bombs again flew through the air and fire-works buzzed into police lines as protesters fought their last stand: the battle of the Quickborn road, a country lane cutting through potato and rape fields to the sad, blighted, north German village of Gorleben.

The 30,000 police were in-

structed to be on their best behaviour, the protesters had taken crash courses in non-violent demonstrating skills and 30 priests with megaphones and clipboards were signed up as mediators, but tension and fatigue combined to create flashpoints.

The largest display of civil force in Germany since the Second World War was answered by one of the most powerful exhibitions of civil disobedience for more than a decade. Scores of demonstrators were hurt, some suffering broken bones, when police broke up a crowd of about 4,000 squatting outside Dannenberg railway station early yesterday. They charged with

batons and studded people with water but most were carried away in cradled arms.

The convoy — bulldozers, lorries with spotlights, lumbering water cannon machines and dozens of police vans accompanied the six nuclear canisters — had to travel about 12 miles from the railway station to Gorleben. A farm cart could have covered the distance in 90 minutes; yesterday — thanks to the delaying tactics — it was a ten-hour obstacle course.

A home-made bomb was found on the route and, again and again, protesters moved in to hurl stones and bottles. Near Quickborn village, militants with masked faces set

light to tyres and haystacks. Casualty and arrest figures were vague, even at the end of the day. Many hundreds of demonstrators found themselves detained briefly during the week of protest, yet almost all were free within hours.

The Prime Minister of Lower Saxony, Gerhard Schröder, told his regional parliament this should be the last such shipment to the Gorleben dump, although its storage hall is far from full. Social Democrats in Bonn quickly echoed his views. The Christian Democrat-led Government will also be forced to rethink its nuclear strategy. Policing cost more than £30 million.

Nato may keep Russia in the picture over Polish flights

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

NATO is considering offering the Russians daily photographs of air defence activities in Poland once Warsaw joins the alliance, to help to convince Moscow that expansion of the organisation poses no threat.

Although Poland has not been officially invited to join Nato — that will happen in July at a summit in Madrid — Russia is continuing to warn alliance officials against moving military installations on to Polish territory.

One senior Nato source said the Russians were afraid that the "alliance planned to do to

Poland what Russia did to Poland — move in tanks and heavy armour". In private negotiations with alliance officials, the Russians have emphasised their opposition to "Nato machinery" advancing into Poland. Nato has been trying to reassure Moscow that it is not the alliance's plan. "Nothing like that will happen," a Nato source said.

However, the Russians have been told that if Poland joins the alliance in 1999 as expected, there will be a move to set up an air defence system that will be compatible with the rest of Nato's military struc-

ture. One Nato source said: "The Russians are doing just the same with the CIS [Commonwealth of Independent States] countries and they understand the reasons why we need to have an air defence system in Poland."

However, as added reassurance, Nato plans confidence-building measures with the Russians. The most radical is a suggestion that Nato air defence activities in Poland could be photographed and the pictures handed to the Russians.

Letters, page 19



Open up your career opportunities

The Open University can offer you a range of respected qualifications... and the skills you need to get ahead.

Today, more employers look for good academic qualifications, and the Open University can give you a certificate, diploma, BA or BSc degree for your C.V.

But OU study can also help you to practise and develop a whole range of personal skills... to analyse and summarise... to plan and structure reports... and to communicate clearly. Some courses will also improve your computer skills!

So, it's not surprising that thousands of OU students are sponsored by their employers. Organisations such as British Airways, Standard Life, Lucas, Hewlett-Packard and IBM use OU courses as part of their own training programmes.

Over 150 courses for career and personal development

You can choose from courses in computing, technology, mathematics, modern languages, business management, law, arts, social science, science, education, and health and social welfare.

Our BA and BSc programmes give you the freedom to select those courses most relevant to your career or to mix personal and professional interests.

And many vocational subjects are available as 'one-off' 9-month courses. So you don't have to commit to a full degree.

Through OU supported open learning Our proven method of teaching allows you to study wherever you live and in your own time. So you can build your study around the needs of your career and family.

You're supported by a personal tutor who gives regular tutorials and marks assignments which are returned to you. Whenever you need help and advice — or simply a word of encouragement — your tutor is just a phone call away.

In addition, there are over 300 study centres, and 13 Regional Centres throughout the UK. Here you can meet your tutor, attend group tutorials, or join your local self-help study group.

More than just TV programmes

As an OU student, you'll be using texts which have been specially written for individual study.



"Studying for my degree helped towards my promotion"

Paul Manning - British Telecom

"I gained a qualification... and skills like planning and time management which were immediately useful at work"

Lucy Robble - Information Department, NHS



"The teaching materials and the tutors were really first class"

Lynn Blackadder - National Art Collection, P&O

television and radio programmes, and video/ audio cassettes produced jointly with the BBC.

Some courses also provide you with PC software, 'home kits' for practical work, or the opportunity to attend a week-long residential school.

A very special degree

An Open University qualification is not a soft option. The academic rigour of our degree is equal to that of any other university in the UK. An Open University degree also says something about the commitment and motivation of its holder. Many employers welcome applications from OU graduates, because they're seen as 'self-starters'.

"Excellent" courses and materials

The Open University is in the small group of universities rated as 'excellent' in most subjects by the Higher Education Funding Council for England.

We offer an unrivalled range of courses and materials for home study, and our method of 'supported open learning' is unique.

An OU degree is also excellent value for money, compared to the cost of a full-time, residential BA or BSc degree.

You should be 18 or over and resident in the European Union. No previous qualifications are required. For your free prospectus, use the coupon or call our Hotline NOW.

Send for your free prospectus on Courses, Diplomas and BA/BSc Degrees NOW.

To: The Open University, PO Box 625, Milton Keynes MK1 1TY.

☐ Please send my copy of Courses, Diplomas and BA/BSc Degrees.

Name

Address

Postcode

Tel

OU Hotline (24 hours) 01908 379199

University education and training open to all adults.

ONLY EVEREST OFFER YOU A NEW LIFETIME GUARANTEE.

Double glazing is a major investment so it pays to shop around and see what's available. Then talk to Everest. You'll soon see why we are the only company confident enough to offer a lifetime guarantee on the sealed units in all our new PVC-U windows and doors.

SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY OFFER
30% OFF

Special Introductory Offer

And these new windows and doors come with a special introductory offer - 30%* off. So now you can make your home warmer, quieter and more secure and make great savings too.

* Off list price. Minimum order value £1500. Not to be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offer available only at time of quotation. Lifetime guarantee applies to sealed units in PVC-U replacement windows and entrance doors. Everest, Everest House, FREEPOST, Cuffley, Herts EN6 4PA.

Call Free 0800 010123 please quote ref MAR717

YES I'd like to save 30% off Everest's list price. Please arrange for a free, no obligation quotation.

Name Mr/Mrs/Miss

Home Tel No

Address

Postcode

Everest
FIT THE BEST

Everest House, FREEPOST, Cuffley, Hertfordshire EN6 4PA.

CALL TODAY

Republicans wrongfooted by budget vote

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX
IN WASHINGTON

DESPITE Republicans' glee at the whirlwind of allegations about questionable fundraising hanging over President Clinton, they suffered a heavy blow this week.

The Senate's rejection on Tuesday of the cornerstone of the Republican congressional agenda — the proposal to force the Government to balance its budget — has left the party's strategy in disarray and enormously complicated the job of the next Republican to make a run for the presidency in 2000.

The huge symbolic value of the budget deficit in the American public's mind is one of the

phenomena of 1990s politics. No matter that eminent economists such as Joseph Stiglitz, former chairman of Mr Clinton's Council of Economic Advisers, have queued up in recent months to say that balanced budgets are not necessarily a good thing. Polls repeatedly show that voters interpret budget deficits as a sign that "big government" is out of control.

Regrouping after Mr Clinton's re-election in November, which nonetheless left Congress in Republican control, Republican leaders seized on balanced-budget proposals as a tool to bridge the party's gaping ideological divisions. The lesson they took from the

election was that voters did not believe the promises of tax cuts spliced awkwardly into Bob Dole's campaign message. Instead, a promise to balance the budget appeared to give Republican economic policies the image of prudence that characterised the party's social policy.

At the start of the new

Congress, Republican leaders announced that a balanced budget amendment would be the centrepiece of their agenda. It would insert into the Constitution a requirement that the federal Government should match its spending and its income in 2002 and every year thereafter, unless three fifths of each house of Con-

gress waived the rule. The plan should have received an extra boost on Monday from the Congressional Budget Office, the non-partisan body that prepares independent budget forecasts, which strongly criticised Mr Clinton's 1998 budget, now under debate by Congress.

In the event, for the second

time in two years, the amendment fell just one vote short of the two thirds majority needed to pass through the Senate. Republican strategists are asking wearily what went wrong.

In part, Democrat senators backed the argument that rewriting the Constitution was too clumsy a tool for fashioning economic policy and would reduce the Government's flexibility in coping with recession. But in the end, the decisive factor was the public's increasing fear, revealed in weekly polls, that social security and other government benefits might be cut in order to bring the books into balance.

Some Republicans were

muttering yesterday that the amendment might be resurrected. But many others, remembering how the party was savaged in the election campaign for proposing cuts on healthcare spending, are nervous of reawakening the perception that they support benefit cuts.

They are probably right that a balanced budget is rapidly losing its power as a symbol of probity. The central problem, which the public has hazily recognised, is that social security and healthcare programmes are due to run out of money early next century. Any government is likely to have to raise taxes, make cuts or run a deficit.

Pressure grows for Gore fund inquiry

Washington: Congress is stepping up efforts to force an independent investigation of Democratic fundraising as top Republicans focus attention on whether Al Gore, the Vice-President,

broke the law (Tom Rhodes writes). Trent Lott, the Republican Senate majority leader, has introduced a resolution demanding an independent counsel examine the 1996 election campaign scan-

dals, and Mr Gore's alleged role. A resolution vote today comes as the Senate Judiciary Committee prepared to insist that Janet Reno, the Attorney-General, agree to an independent inquiry.

'Home Alone' star wins access to \$7m film fortune

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MACAULAY CULKIN, now 16, has been granted access to his \$7 million (£4.3 million) fortune so that he can attempt to restore the imbalance child-star fame brought to his family life.

A New York judge ruled that Culklin's parents, who have squabbled and split, should no longer have control of his money. Responsibility will rest with an independent accountant and Culklin himself. His first purchase will be a Manhattan flat for his six siblings.

Manhattan's supreme court heard Justice David Saxe detail the sorry neglect that Culklin has suffered at the hands of his parents, Kit Culklin and Patricia Brentrup.



Culklin: from cute child to teenage party animal

The notoriously difficult couple, whose only income came from 15 per cent "management fees" from the film careers of their children, have spent all their money suing each other. Justice Saxe said there was "a real possibility" that Macaulay and the other Culklin children would be left without a roof over their heads unless he overruled trust fund arrangements keeping the youngster from his millions.

When Culklin made the film *Home Alone* in 1990 he was a cute ten-year-old said to have a future lined with gold and happiness. Today he is a beer-swilling, cigarette-sucking adolescent who has been used by his parents, robbed of his dignity and has lost his acting career.

Justice Saxe said the Culklin parents "cannot be relied upon" and noted that rent on the four New York city apartments where the children live had gone unpaid for months.

Macaulay Culklin has become undisciplined and neighbours said his nineteenth-floor flat was "party central", comparing it to a railway station, such has been the litter and noise and traffic of strangers.

Kieran Culklin, 14, is the only family member currently working in films — co-starring in *Freaky Friday* with Sharon Stone.



President Clinton, in Arkadelphia, Arkansas, comforts Judy Sligh, whose business was destroyed by a tornado

Thousands flee as floods hit Midwest

BY QUENTIN LETTS

THOUSANDS of people were evacuated from their homes as severe floods, the worst for at least 33 years, hit the American Midwest. Twenty-four Ohio, Indiana and Kentucky counties were declared disaster areas amid roof-high floods in the Ohio River valley. Tennes-

see and West Virginia tributaries burst their banks, forcing whole towns to be ruled out of bounds by exhausted emergency workers.

The fast-flowing Ohio, rushing by with debris and battered vehicles, crested at 12ft above normal flood levels yesterday. The floods were caused by heavy rains, and a forecast of further rain suggested

that the worst may yet be to come. House-owners tried to move possessions into attics, but in towns such as West Point, at the confluence of the Ohio and Salt rivers, there was nothing to be done. More than four-fifths of its houses were submerged. The floods resulted from the weather system that brought late snow to the Northeast and tornadoes to the South.

Turkish leader bows to military

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE
IN ANKARA

TURKEY'S Islamist Prime Minister, Necmettin Erbakan, has signed a military-sponsored plan for a crackdown on pro-Islamic radicals, ending a stand-off with the powerful Army, a senior military official said yesterday.

"The signing problem has been resolved," General İlhan Kılıç, the National Security Council's secretary-general, said.

The end of the stand-off had been disclosed moments earlier by Tansu Çiller, the Foreign Minister. "The problem has been totally resolved," she was quoted by the Anatolia news agency as telling a meeting of her conservative True Path Party.

A private Turkish television station also reported that Mr Erbakan had bowed to military pressure and signed the army-sponsored plan.

The National Security Council includes political leaders and senior officers from the military, which regards itself as the guardian of Turkey's secular political system.

Mr Erbakan's decision to give in to the military pressure came amid heightened tension, caused after he rejected the 20-point military plan on Monday.

Dampener on France's new library

Paris: Celebrations to mark the opening of France's grand new library, the Bibliothèque de France François Mitterrand, have been dampened after officials admitted there had been a flood in its archives just a month after its inauguration (Ben Macintyre writes).

Shelves of materials in the high-tech library were damaged when swamped by fire sprinklers reacting to a false alarm on January 26. The electronic detection system failed to monitor the flood.

Koreas meet

New York: North and South Korea held their first face-to-face peace talks for a quarter of a century yesterday in a three-way meeting with the United States at a hotel here (James Bone writes). US officials described the meeting as a "joint briefing" by America and South Korea on proposals for a four-power conference — to include China — aimed at concluding a peace treaty formally ending the Korean War.

Sikh victory

Delhi: Relatives of Sikhs massacred in Delhi 13 years ago after Sikh bodyguards murdered Indira Gandhi have received compensation (Christopher Thomas writes). The mostly paltry sums acknowledged official complicity in the murders. Senior Congress party politicians who urged the killings have been too powerful to prosecute.

Seoul shuffle

Seoul: President Kim Young Sam of South Korea appointed Kang Kyong Shik, 60, as Finance Minister in a Cabinet reshuffle to deflect criticism of his handling of a slumping economy and a £3.6 billion loans scandal. The new Prime Minister, appointed on Tuesday, is Koh Kun. (Reuters)

Art tug-of-war

Moscow: Parliament here passed a law, attacked by the Russian and German Governments and subject to presidential approval, claiming ownership of artworks seized from Nazi Germany. (Reuters)

Legal & General takes a scalpel to healthcare costs

The result is Lifetime HealthCare. Available exclusively from Legal & General. Lifetime HealthCare is the 3-in-1 plan that delivers more kinds of care at a lower monthly premium. It covers your authorised hospital costs, including surgical and medical treatments, post-operative nursing and day care. It provides a renewable cash fund for dental, optical, maternity and other healthcare expenses. And it adds the peace-of-mind bonus of lump sum accident insurance.

We've put extra cover and extra care plus a lifetime's experience of insurance into our healthcare plan... for you to enjoy the benefits.



Private Medical Insurance
Extensive cover for the hospital care you need.

Medical Cash Fund*

A cash fund for dental, optical and other healthcare expenses.

Accident Insurance*

A lump sum in the event of a disabling or fatal accident.

*Available only to persons up to 60 years of age
*Some benefits are subject to a qualifying period

All 3 benefits in 1 for a small monthly sum.

Lifetime HealthCare from Legal & General

FIND OUT MORE TODAY. PHONE US FREE QUOTING REF B11/DL29

0500 669966

WEEKDAYS 8am - 8pm WEEKENDS 9am - 5pm

FOR YOUR PROTECTION CALLS WILL USUALLY BE RECORDED AND RANDOMLY MONITORED

Send to Legal & General, FREEPOST SWC 0467, Cardiff, CF1 1YW

SURNAME (MR/MRS/MISS/MS)
FORENAMES
ADDRESS
POSTCODE
DATE OF BIRTH / /
TEL HOME
TEL BUSINESS
ADDITIONAL PERSONS TO BE COVERED
ADULT PARTNER (NAME)
MARRITAL STATUS (IF EITHER ADULT IS OVER 60)
DATE OF BIRTH / /
NO. OF CHILDREN UNDER 18

Please send me a personal quotation at no obligation

We may telephone you to make sure that the information you have requested has arrived safely. Now and then we may also tell you about other products or services offered by the Legal & General Group of companies, that we believe may be of interest to you. If you would prefer not to receive this carefully selected information, please tick here ☐

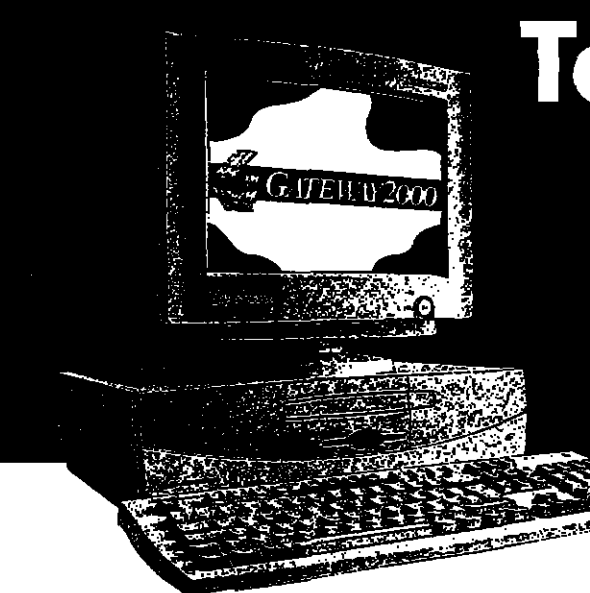
B11/DL29

Legal & General Direct Limited
Registered in England No. 2732401
Registered Office: Temple Court
11 Queen Victoria Street
London EC4N 3TP

http://www.legal-and-general.co.uk

Legal & General

Tailor-made For Your Business!



Get serious about your business with Gateway 2000. Large or small, companies love our impressive range of tailor-made PCs from state-of-the-art desktops and multi-talented multimedia systems to high-performance portables. All our systems arrive ready to run and they feature the latest technology from leading suppliers, configured for maximum power and speed. We pride ourselves on offering the highest quality PCs at cost-effective prices. We'll custom-build your PC with exactly the features you need.

Enhance your office with the P5-150

Take a look at the P5-150. With a 150MHz Intel Pentium® processor, 16MB of SDRAM expandable to 64MB and a 1.2GB EIDE hard drive, it delivers all the power you need to work with maximum efficiency. Other features include a Mitsumi 12 speed CD-ROM, a 2MB SGRAM graphics accelerator and a package of pre-installed Microsoft® software which now includes MS® Office 97 Small Business Edition (SBE) Plus — perfect for dealing with all your office tasks.

All this is backed up with our pride and joy, award-winning service and support, including:

- Free telephone technical support on all your hardware and software for as long as you own your PC.
- A 30-day no quibble money-back guarantee (shipping costs not refundable) plus Gateway 2000® warranties.

**FLEXIBLE BUSINESS
FINANCE OPTION
CALL FOR DETAILS**

GATEWAY2000
"You've got a friend in the business."
0800 74 2000
http://www.gw2k.co.uk

All configurations and prices are subject to change without notice or obligation. ©1997 Gateway 2000 Europe. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners. All other trademarks and registered trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

P5-150

- Intel 150MHz Pentium® Processor
- 16MB SDRAM, expandable to 64MB
- 3.5" 1.44MB Floppy Disk Drive
- Mitsumi 12X CD-ROM
- Western Digital® 1.2GB EIDE Hard Drive
- Matrox® MGA 3D Graphics Accelerator 2MB SGRAM
- 15" CrystalScan® Colour Monitor*
- ATX Desktop Model
- Microsoft® Windows® 95 105 Keyboard
- MS® Windows 95, MS IntellMouse
- MS Office 97 Small Business Edition (SBE) Plus
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

£949 (£1149.15 inc. VAT & Delivery)

Call our Friendly Sales Team now or call in to the Gateway 2000 Showroom, 10 Bedford Street, Covent Garden, London WC2E 9HE. You'll be glad you did!

Showroom Hours of Business:

12.30 pm - 6.30 pm Mondays
9.30 am - 6.30 pm Tuesday - Friday
10.00 am - 4.00 pm Saturdays
Closed Sunday and Bank Holidays

intel inside
pentium

Sportsmen riding for a fall



Dr Thomas Stuttford on why so many sports stars develop arthritis; prescriptions that are thrown away; pain at low temperatures; surgery to make hands look younger; and new investigations into fertility and population

It is said that Willie Carson was Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother's favourite jockey, and she will not be the only racegoer to miss his distinctive voice and determined but personable manner. She will, however, be better than most at understanding and sympathising with his reasons for retiring. For the Queen Mother is, like Carson, no stranger to the aches and pains of arthritic joints.

Carson, 54, had a terrible accident at the end of last year. He is reported to have said recently that his joints and bones have been so badly battered by a lifetime in and out of the saddle that it has left him with residual damage which makes it impossible to push himself hard enough to keep sufficiently fit to meet his own exacting standards.

Carson is only one of thousands of athletes whose reward for a working life on the tracks and playing fields could be a row of silver cups on the sideboard — and a pair of sticks by the door with which to hobble around the house when they are older.

The comment of the orthopaedic surgeon who said when looking at the distorted, swollen, painful knees of a former international rugby player "bring me an athlete of 50, and I will demonstrate osteoarthritis" has gone into medical folklore. But it is only part of the story.

Osteoarthritis is not confined only to sportsmen and women, or even to human beings. All vertebrate animals, other than bats or sloths, may suffer from osteoarthritis. Even the joints of dinosaur skeletons have been eroded by it. It shows a racial bias: the Chinese, for instance, rarely suffer from osteoarthritis from the hips.

Early signs of degenerative joint disease can be found in 10 per cent of people in their twenties. By the age of 40 the majority of knees and hips have X-ray evidence of osteoarthritis, and by 70 even the most slothful person who has never run after a ball, let alone ridden a horse, has some wear and tear in the joints.

Osteoarthritis has been described as joint failure, a degenerative condition in which the cartilage of the joint surfaces can no longer cope with the stresses they have to bear. The factors which contribute to this disease are multitudinous. The tendency to suffer osteoarthritis is genetic, but its advent

may be triggered by many causes, ranging from minor congenital abnormalities of the skeleton which place joints under regular tension, to a wide variety of diseases.

Other cases are brought on by endocrine abnormalities, by malignancy, by complex changes in the biochemistry of the body, or by overuse — whether as a footballer or as a farmworker. Particularly damaging to the joints are the traumas inflicted by such activities as steeplechasing, rugby football, or other contact sports. Doctors are not free of blame: osteoarthritis is a late consequence of most cases where there has been open surgery on a joint.

Patients want a drug which will reduce the inflammation and therefore the pain in the osteoarthritic joint, allowing them a good night's sleep and freer, painless movement by day. Patients also want, however, an anti-inflammatory drug which will not cause savage gut ache, diarrhoea, vomiting, or the risk of a serious adverse reaction resulting in perforation of the stomach or intestines, or a fatal haemorrhage.

Two thousand people die each year from taking anti-inflammatory pills to treat arthritis — as many as do from cancer of the cervix.

A better understanding of the mechanism of the enzyme system responsible for the inflammatory processes controlled by prostaglandins in a diseased joint has enabled doctors to produce a whole new group of anti-inflammatory drugs. These will reduce the inflammation, and therefore pain in the joint, without being likely to cause damage to the gastrointestinal tract or the kidneys, or to interfere with blood clotting.

Most of these drugs will not be available for three or four years, but the first, Mobic, is rapidly becoming established as a treatment of moderate to severe arthritis, including osteoarthritis, rheumatoid arthritis and ankylosing spondylitis. An alternative to Mobic is Arthrotec, which combines a gut protector with the anti-inflammatory drug.

As yet neither Mobic nor Arthrotec are totally safe but they are very much safer than previous anti-inflammatory drugs. Now, whenever my back or other joints are too stiff or painful, I'll take one of these two and will reject offers of other non-steroidal anti-inflammatory agents.



Willie Carson riding near his home last week after announcing his retirement

When patients won't take their medicine

Half of patients with serious chronic illnesses do not take the medication which has been so carefully prescribed for them by their doctor, and so expensively provided by the NHS. The pills and potions lie decaying in bathroom cupboards, or are thrown away. A year or two ago, one county collected all unused prescriptions. The haul weighed a ton and a half.

The cost of unused medicines extends far beyond the price of the prescription. Without carefully balanced treatment, the patient does not make the recovery expected and in consequence may need yet more therapy. There is no better example of the failure of patients to take prescribed drugs than is found in cases of high blood pressure.

Although hypotensive therapy is lifesaving, only 50 per cent bother with it so long as they are feeling well. When prescriptions are either not collected, or collected and abandoned, it is not only the doctor's time which is wasted. There is the additional danger that the doctor gains a false impression of the efficacy of the treatment recommended, and other patients may therefore be deprived of it.

A joint two-year investigation by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and a pharmaceutical company, Merck Sharp and Dohm, into non-compliance found that neither doctors nor patients were to blame in isolation. Their report said, for this reason, the term patient compliance was disliked because it seemed to attribute the problem only to the patient. Doctors tended to be too authoritarian and did not spend long enough explaining to the patient the nature of the illness and its symptoms and the way in which prescriptions would help.

Patients did not understand the need to explore with the doctor their worries about taking treatment, and often had no intention of swallowing their pre-

scribed drugs. It was even suggested that there might be an instinctive human reaction against swallowing chemicals, similar to that found in cows, which will leave the poisonous weeds in a pasture. The theory is that some patients may have an inborn warning system which makes them reluctant to take substances which could, if taken in non-medical doses, cause damage.

Doctors' orders may be a good excuse for leaving a party for an early night or turning down the second helping of pudding, but it is a phrase which summons up an image of the worst type of doctor-patient relationship.

My father, who epitomised the Edwardian doctor, was never able to come to terms with the approach of younger colleagues who treated their patients as if they were personal property, rather as farmers might think of their milk quota.

A doctor, in his view, was there to give advice. The patient was at liberty to accept or ignore it. If the patient's opinion, or even to change their doctor, they are fully justified in doing so, and this should be accepted without ill will. Likewise, the doctor has every right to suggest to patients that they would be happier, and better served, by going elsewhere.

The successful doctor-patient relationship existed in the past when both could sit down together and discuss the problems, the remedies, or the lack of them, the side-effects of treatment and the likely outcome of the disease.

It is interesting that nearly 100 years after my father qualified, the expert panel gathered together by the Royal Pharmaceutical Society has produced a report that recommends dealing with the problems of compliance which would incorporate the approach of Dr Finlay or Dr Cameron, or my father in Norfolk.

STRESSED?

Relieve the stresses and strains of modern living with Valerina Day Time

Stresses: 1. Anxieties, burdens, hassles, traumas, worries, strains.

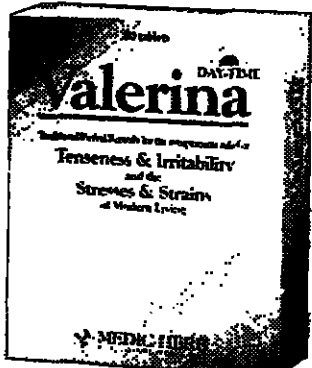
Tenseness: 1. Tautness, stretched tight; 2. Subject to tension.

Irritability: 1. Unusual sensitivity, annoyance, frustration, aggravation.

Valerina Day Time is a traditional herbal remedy containing 400mg of valerian and 325mg of lemon balm. It eases tenseness and irritability, to help you through the stresses and strains of everyday life. Clinically researched Valerina Day Time will leave you calm and relaxed, ready to face even the busiest day.

So when you want to relieve pressure, try Valerina Day Time.

Relax. GO TO IT.
Always read the in-pack leaflet.



For more information on Valerina Day Time, please call 0181 580 8847 Available at Boots, Holland & Barrett, chemists, and health food stores.

EVERYONE has experienced agonising pain and colour changes in the hands and feet if they are badly chilled in cold weather.

Patients with Raynaud's Phenomenon are particularly liable to suffer these colour changes. They need not always be brought about by extreme cold, although they are worse in these conditions.

With Raynaud's Phenomenon the fingers — only rarely are the thumbs affected — are painful and undergo either biphasic or triphasic colour changes. They may go from livid blue to

Red, white and blue in the cold

a bright red, and in patients suffering the triphasic changes the colour starts as a deathly pallor before changing to blue and then red.

Raynaud's Phenomenon, when it is not precipitated by cold, may be associated with many other trigger factors, including smoking, high blood pressure, thyroid problems and scleroderma and a

host of other troubles. The syndrome is found more commonly in women than in men.

The British Medical Journal has recently reported that Raynaud's Phenomenon can also affect the nipples of pregnant women.

The agony some pregnant women suffer in their breasts in cold weather has often been described, but nobody had noticed previously that the nipples went through the same colour patterns, both biphasic or triphasic, as did the unfortunate woman's fingers.

Old hands given new life

OLD MASTERS were particularly good at painting hands. Many a possible family treasure has been dismissed as a copy after an expert has seen it and explained that the hands "were just not good enough". The veins on the hands of the aged were so beautifully painted that they not only added to the impact of the picture but were a clear guide to the sitter's age.

People's ages are as much marked by their hands as they are by their necks or hair.

What is moving in an Old Master is depressing to an actress, television presenter or hostess, who have no desire to look frail and elderly, but want to appear still dynamic, young and sexually appealing.

Bags under the eyes and chicken skin around the neck can be removed, but hitherto the veins of the hands have been a giveaway, and many patients have even taken to wearing gloves to hide them. Two London surgeons, Stanley Rivlin, who operated on Baroness Thatcher's varicose veins, and his colleague Paul Baskerville have now devised



Albrecht Dürer's Hands

an operation, cosmetic phlebectomy, which risks women of any hand veins that might betray their seniority.

Small, nearly invisible incisions are made in the back of the hand — the incisions are so small that no stitches are needed. Through these incisions the veins are hooked out. The patient is admitted for one night, bandages are worn for 24 hours, the bruises are all gone within a week and the patient can thereafter hold her hands up anywhere.

Sperm counts and fertility

ALTHOUGH there seems to be an obsession at present with sperm counts as an indication of man's diminishing masculinity, there are still frequent questions about how true a measure they are of the fertility of a population.

Further doubts on the relevance of an individual sperm count have been cast by a recent survey, which showed wide variations in the count from day to day, and even depended on which laboratory was involved. So before any man becomes too depressed about his fertility, and makes any decision about it, he should undergo tests.

The Journal of Urology has published a study which shows that, despite present doubts, there is a real association between the average sperm count in a community and its birthrate. In a very large survey, urologists in Minnesota have compared sperm counts to birthrate there since 1971.

When the average sperm count rises, so does the birthrate. The link between an individual's single sperm count and his fertility may be questionable, but if the count for the population as a whole is estimated, it is highly relevant.

EVERYONE'S TALKING ABOUT SELENIUM!

At last, Selenium, one of the most vital dietary supplements is being given the press it deserves!

The British Medical Journal and the Journal of the American Medical Association have both published astonishing pieces of research in the last two months. Their results indicate that Selenium is cardio-protective, cancer preventing and can help delay ageing.

However, as Dr Larry Clarke from the Arizona Cancer Centre recently pointed out, "Selenium is different from most other nutrients in that you can't be sure how much is in your diet - it varies hugely in foodstuffs."

With Healthspan, you can be certain of getting the right amount of Selenium. Our tablets combine 300mcg of Selenium with Vitamins A, C and E at 100% of the Government Recommended Daily Allowance.

They also come to you at unbeatable Tax-Free Prices direct from Guernsey, with no extra charge for Post and Packing.

A YEAR'S SUPPLY OF 360 TABLETS £10.95 POST FREE

TAX-FREE ORDER FORM

Please fill in this coupon and return it with a cheque or P.O. payable to "Healthspan" and post it to: Healthspan, PO Box 54, Guernsey GY1 2EP

Or debit my Mastercard/Visa Card by: Expiry Date: /

Please send me 360 Selenium A.C.E. tablets at the special offer price of only £10.95 inc. P&P

Name: /

Telephone: /

Address: /

Post Code: /

CREDIT CARD HOTLINE 01481 714015

FAX ORDERLINE: 01481 713790

The McAlpine memoirs: Day Four – spending Christmas with Margaret Thatcher



The interior of the Great Hall at Chequers where a log fire blazed

'The Prime Minister immediately set about sorting out the fridge'

CHRISTMAS AT CHEQUERS



Romilly and I always occupied a suite on the first floor of Chequers

The Christmas of 1983 I spent, as usual, with the Thatchers at Chequers. Romilly and I would arrive at about 11 on Christmas Day, after calling in to see my parents at their home near Henley-on-Thames. The Christmas Day lunch party was usually composed of the Thatchers, Mark and Carol, and Denis's sister, known as Auntie Joy, a delightfully down-to-earth character.

Romilly and I were house guests and a variety of other people came to different Christmas lunches over the nine years that we stayed at Chequers. Regular attendees were Tim and Virginia Bell, Ronnie Miller, Sir Jack and Lady Page, along with other people who were down on their luck or lived near by. Gordon Reece was often there on Christmas Day. Lunch went well as it always did, for Margaret Thatcher had a talent for making her guests feel at home. A great log fire blazed in the Great Hall, a giant Christmas tree filled one part of it with its long drooping branches. Under them were the Thatcher family presents.

There was always plenty to eat and drink and Margaret Thatcher was assiduous in seeing that you ate and drank it. Denis was the most genial of hosts and there was a party spirit about the place.

After a few drinks, it was into lunch, usually mutton followed by turkey. A giant bird, the gift of the Smithfield traders, it was carried in by a chef, who then posed with the bird and the other staff for photographs. After that the Christmas pudding, a flaming ball topped with holly, which was carried hurriedly around the table. The wines were good and the food well cooked. Mince pies, brandy butter, Stilton – all were in abundance. Crackers were pulled, but the Prime Minister never put on a funny hat. Photographs were taken by many of those present.

Then Jack Page rose to read his poem, a poem that had been specially written for the occasion. At this point, coffee was served and the Prime Minister began to fidget, looking at her watch and moving uneasily in her chair. Jack Page's poems were in fact sagas that ran and ran. The danger approached of a collision between the words of the Queen due on television at 3pm and the tail end of the Page poem. The Prime Minister stood up and we all hurried to the White Study to watch the

Queen making her Christmas speech.

The national anthem played and we all stood to attention. The speech over, the Prime Minister announced a walk to the Bothy, where the police who guard Chequers have their base. We carried with us Christmas cake and other refreshments. Some time was spent talking to the police, who had missed their Christmas guarding us. Then we set out for a brisk walk down the drive to wish the staff who lived in the cottages at the Churchill Gate happy Christmas. One year, the weather was unusually warm but it changed suddenly to a rather cold Christmas Day. Romilly was without a coat, so she asked to borrow one from Carol. Instead of lending her a coat of her own, Carol lent Romilly one of her mother's that was hanging in the hall cupboard. We were about halfway down the drive at a very exposed spot, when the

detective who was walking with Romilly a yard or two in front of the Prime Minister said: "It's wonderful that you are wearing the coat the PM wore to church this morning. You make a splendid decoy. It's a great help because we're having trouble with the security equipment today. It's not working properly."

Back at the house, tea is served and then the guests headed for home. When all the guests had left, the staff were given the evening off. Romilly and I went to our room to change. We always occupied a suite on the first floor of Chequers, a large bedroom comfortably furnished and a smaller one adjoining it. Both rooms had their own bathrooms. The point of this layout was that in the days of male Prime Ministers, who liked to stay up all night, smoking and drinking and I suppose plotting, the male Cabinet member could return to his room without disturbing his

wife. I remember Carla Thorneycroft, a frequent visitor to Chequers in Churchill's day, telling me that she always knew when Peter came to bed next door by the smell of cigar smoke.

Dinner on Christmas night was a simple affair, usually the six or so of us staying in the house sat at a round table in a bay window of the dining-room. A buffet was laid out: smoked salmon, cold turkey, cold beef, salads, fruit and Christmas cake. One year, there was a large tin of caviar. Margaret Thatcher decided that this half-eaten tin should be put away in the fridge, so Romilly and the Prime Minister set out for the kitchens. After some trouble fumbling around in the dark, they finally found the way to the kitchen. The fridge was on an industrial scale. Inside were half-eaten chickens and turkeys, mince pies and whole piles of fresh food. "This will not do," said the Prime Minister, who immediately set about sorting out the fridge and covering plates of food with clingfilm and silver foil. I laugh to think of the surprise the next day when the staff returned and found this transformation of

the inside of the fridge. Boxing Day lunch was usually a more formal affair. I would spend the morning in the library, which for me was bliss: the collection of memorabilia at Chequers is wonderful. Lunch on Boxing Day was usually a buffet affair served on round tables seating eight or ten people, set up in the Great Hall. The guests were a mixture of politicians and industrialists.

Often they grumbled at being asked to leave their own houses on Boxing Day, but they came anyway. There are in London a group of people who flit around power as honeybees around lavender, collecting a little more power for themselves at each encounter. There is no room for either sentiment or principle in the lives of the overly ambitious. I felt certain that there would have been a telephone call to Downing Street if an invitation to any of them was delayed in the post.

Extract from *Once A Jolly Bagman* by Alistair McAlpine (Alistair McAlpine, 1997), published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on March 13, at £20. Times readers can buy *Once A Jolly Bagman: Memoirs of Alistair McAlpine* for just £16 (a saving of £4) by calling The Times Bookshop, 0900 134459.

Confessions of THATCHER'S BAGMAN

The day I became an IRA target

BY May 1990, I had left my home at West Green in Hampshire. I had for some years been a target of the IRA and my house was vulnerable to attack. Some instinct encouraged me to move. I also moved my London residence. A week or so later in my new London apartment, I woke, as usual, just before 6am. I switched on the television and as I began to increase the volume, a house ruined by a bomb blast came on the screen. Romilly, sitting in bed beside me, said: "That's West Green". So it was. Our last home had been blown apart by an IRA bomb.

It was an incredibly strange feeling, sitting there looking at a ruined house where we had not left, we would have died. The telephone rang. It was the Prime Minister. She had also just seen the 6am news.

MEMORIES OF WEST GREEN



Margaret and Denis Thatcher with Skye McAlpine

She was very kind about the whole business. I am compelled to write, however, that I did not feel too badly about the house for I and my family were still alive.

The bomb had exploded under the window where

Margaret Thatcher had stayed only four months before. That room was next to Skye's bedroom. Next the police called. "Do not move. Do not touch anything in the apartment," they said. In minutes, they arrived with

dogs and equipment. Our apartment was thoroughly searched. Soon the press began to ring me. I simply said: "It is a shame that the IRA, these days, are going around blowing up beautiful old houses."

Margaret Thatcher had visited West Green several times, on the first occasion when our daughter Skye was very small. Skye took Margaret Thatcher by the hand and led her into the garden to play hide and seek. When I noticed that the Prime Minister was not around, I set out to look for her. Nobody seemed to know where she was. I found Mrs Thatcher in the garden, hiding behind hedges as Skye searched for her. Mrs Thatcher is naturally good with small children, treating them like miniature adults, which is what small children really enjoy.

MICHAEL HESELTINE

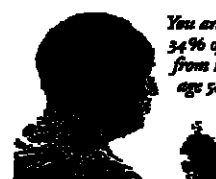
MICHAEL HESELTINE and his wife Anne visited us shortly after he walked out of Margaret Thatcher's Cabinet. I have always liked Michael personally, despite the fact that I do not agree with a single political idea that he has ever produced.

I first met him, then one of Ted Heath's ministers, in 1973 at a dinner party. He regaled the assembled company with his views on the economy. Even then, it struck me that he was a man who felt that he could run everyone else's business far better than they could.

Years later I observed him as a Cabinet minister. Given the chance to run a ministry, and faced with making choices, he was far from decisive. He is so

different from me, he is a maker of sets, a checklist collector, a checklist politician. For myself, if I find a thing of beauty, I want more of that same thing. I am not remotely interested in making sets that include the boring and the banal just because they happen to be part of that set. Nor am I inclined to avoid people who just happen to have views that contradict my own.

I have not seen much of him since that time. In time he drove Margaret Thatcher from office. I bear him no malice for what he did, politics is a hard game and Heseltine was Thatcher's enemy. It was the treachery of those who failed to support her friends that brought her down.



What my older, wiser brother said about "IMPOTENCE"

PEOPLE who suffer from it get fed up. Just thinking about it makes it worse. And many prescribed drugs have adverse effects. But there are qualified people who now specialise in treating this embarrassing condition *painlessly*. I found them, he said, at The Medical Centre in Weymouth Street, London W1N 3PA. Call them on 0171 637 2018, now!

PEUGEOT OWNERS COMPREHENSIVE INSURANCE FROM **£105**

Low Cost Insurance for Peugeot
Tel: 0117 929 4971 NOW!
or Phone your Nearest Branch at the Local Rate on 0345 123111

Ask for a quote on the Internet: <http://www.hhh.co.uk>
Hill House Hammond
Over 250 Branches Nationwide

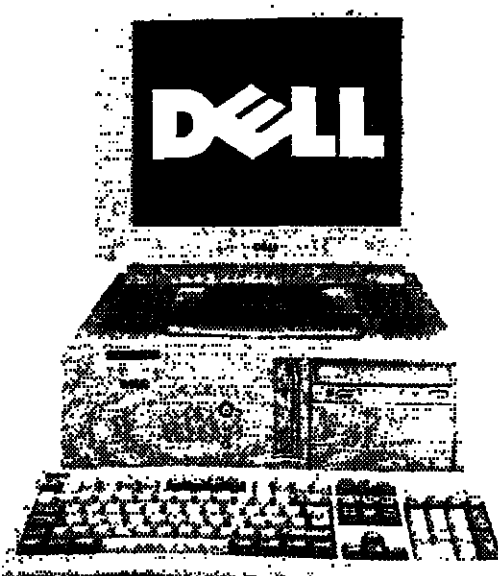
TOMORROW
McAlpine on McAlpine: "My education at Stowe was a disaster"

Techno Wizardry. Magic Price.

DELL DIMENSION XPS M200s

- INTEL 200MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR WITH MMX™ TECHNOLOGY
- 16MB SDRAM
- 512KB CACHE
- 3GB EIDE HARD DRIVE
- 5TB POWERGRAPH 64 3D PCI GRAPHICS CARD WITH 2MB VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)
- TWELVE SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
- MID-SIZED DESKTOP CHASSIS
- INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND
- WINDOWS 95 & MICROSOFT OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95

£1,299 (£1,555.70 incl. delivery & VAT)



Incredible isn't it? With its fantastic spec and for only £1,299 (£1,555.70 inc. del. & VAT), we're offering a Dell Dimension™ XPS M200s with a Pentium® Processor with MMX™ technology. Because it comes with MMX technology, it can run between 10% and 20% faster under today's normal business applications. It includes a powerful 12 Speed CD-ROM Drive and a 3Gb Hard Drive. And, as if this wasn't enough, we're also offering additional upgrades at outstanding prices (see below to upgrade this system further). But you must hurry before the offer vanishes. Call the world's largest direct PC manufacturer* today

on 01344 724863 to see what Dell can conjure up for you. *Source: IDC

Upgrade Options
Add an additional 16MB RAM Only £100 (£117.50 inc. VAT)
Add multimedia kit of AWE 32 sound upgrade and ACS20 speakers Only £100 (£117.50 inc. VAT)
Add a 33.6 Internal Modem Only £99 (£116.33 inc. VAT)
(CALL NOW FOR DETAILS OF OFFICE 97 UPGRADES.)



TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONE.
01344 724863
Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.
<http://www.dell.com>

Dell and the Dell logo are registered trademarks and Dell Dimension is a trademark of Dell Computer Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and MMX is a trademark of Intel Corporation. Microsoft, Windows, Office Professional 95 and the Windows logo are registered trademarks of the Microsoft Corporation. Delivery at £25 (£29.37 incl. VAT) per system. Finance is available subject to status. Full details available on request. Prices correct at date of publication. The photograph product may not always match the specifications in this advert. Prices quoted refer to specific items only. The prices listed reflect the information available at the time of going to press. Prices change frequently. All prices and specifications are subject to change without prior notice or obligation. Offer supplied with Windows 95. Dell mouse and keyboard included. Dell Computer Corporation Ltd, Milborne House, Western Road, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 1PD. Offer available for a limited period only.

It's time to pension off the State

David Willetts hails the Lilley pension reforms as the greatest advance since Lloyd George

The concept of retirement was invented just over a century ago. It was followed by the first serious investigations of the case for a state retirement pension. The argument was that working men would not be able to save enough during their lives to keep them in their retirement, so the State should step in to run a pension scheme. The great economist Alfred Marshall gave evidence to the Royal Commission on the Aged Poor in 1893, and argued that it would be wrong to introduce any schemes that did "not contain in themselves the seeds for their own disappearance... I should not like any institution started that did not contain in itself the causes which would make it shrivel up, as the causes of poverty shrivel up." He looked forward to a time when people would be earning so much that it would be possible to expect them to save during their working lives for their own retirement.

Now we are reaching that happy situation, with people on average earning enough to be able to save for their retirement. But ironically, we have been stalled by the inertia of the old system. The working population has been paying so much through the State's pay-as-you-go system to current pensioners that it has been difficult to see how they could be expected to save for themselves on top. We appeared to be at an impasse. Yesterday, Peter Lilley showed that he has cracked that problem. He has put forward one of the boldest and best policy initiatives since 1979.

Peter Lilley's proposal is one of the strongest policy initiatives since 1979

The next generation of people joining the workforce, in the new millennium, will get a rebate of their national insurance contributions of £9 a week plus 5 per cent of their earnings to pay into their own pension savings. They will still have to pay some contributions to the generation above them, which is entitled to a state pension that must obviously be protected.

The net cost of the rebates is an extra £160 million, cumulating every year to a maximum eventual cost of around £7 billion a year — rather smaller than the rebates for people who contracted out of Serps in the mid 1980s. Peter Lilley has held the total costs down by an ingenious shift in the tax rules, so that the next generation's pension contributions will be paid out of taxed income but received tax free. This balances out for the individual over a lifetime, but helps the Government with its cashflow during the change-over to the new system. And the 1995 Pensions Act will yield savings of £13 billion a year, so Peter Lilley has already created scope for financing the transition.

That is the technical brilliance of what Peter Lilley is proposing. But what is the big picture? The next generation is

being offered genuine security through a real fund for its pensions. A recent MORI survey showed that more young people expect to win the National Lottery jackpot than believe they will ever get an adequate state pension.

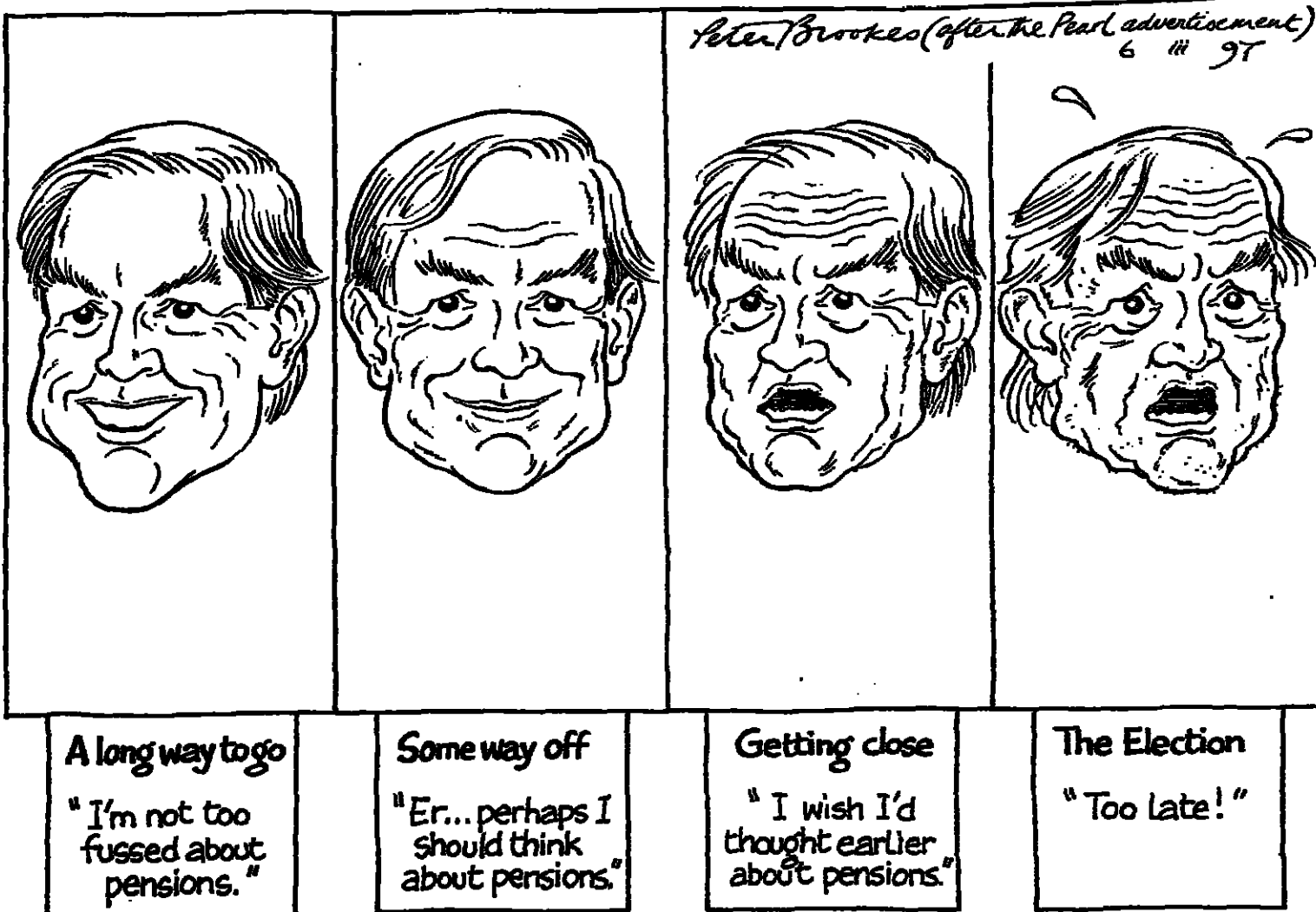
Instead of their pension ultimately resting on the State's power to tax, they will now have one secured on genuine private funds. Because all young people will be in such schemes, private pension providers will be able to hold down their administrative and advertising costs, which have brought such bad publicity to personal pensions. The Social Security Department will be able to focus on what is rightly its responsibility — guaranteeing the basic pension and helping the poorest pensioners.

Peter Lilley has cautiously assumed that his proposals will have no impact on the overall performance of the economy. He is dutifully following the conventional economic doctrine that capital markets are global so there need be no correlation between the amounts a nation saves and its volume of investment. The theory is that a low-saving country with a host of investment opportunities will simply borrow to make up the difference. But in practice there does seem to be a strong correlation between savings and investment. So if we save more we may well invest more. If our growth rate increases even by just one twentieth of a percentage point, this will more than cover the costs of the rebates at their peak.

This opens up for working families not Harriet Harman's "chilling prospect", but the hope of pensions that grow along with the economy. Labour, by contrast, advocates industry-wide second pension schemes on the Australian model. But how can civil servants define an "industry" for the purpose of collecting a pension in the year 2040? The modern global economy makes the idea absurd. And also, as with Frank Field's proposals for a stakeholder second pension, trade union bosses and employers are expected to run the schemes through some sort of corporatist structure. It is remarkably backward-looking. Nothing beats personal ownership, direct and clear.

Back in 1911, Lloyd George fought an election when he brought in his national insurance scheme with the slogan of "nine pence for four pence". Now Peter Lilley is offering £175 a week for £9 plus 5 per cent. It is a popular cry, and unlike Lloyd George's offer it is securely based on genuine saving. It takes us yet further towards the Tory vision of a property-owning democracy, and it deserves to succeed.

The author is chairman of the Conservative Research Department and MP for Havant.



Stand up for bastards

The weakening of marriage is only part of a general weakening of the sense of responsibility towards children

David Evans is an offensive comedian; he thinks he is being frank and manly when he is merely expressing the ideas of a bully in the language of a clown. He represents a sweaty testosterone culture which rejects and perhaps fears women: such a culture is still quite strong in the world of professional athletes and refuse contractors in which he failed to grow up. It is an unpleasant, one-sided and ungenerous culture which does not deserve to be represented in Parliament. He has nothing to say which would make Britain a better place, and much to say which would make it a worse one. He is against women, blacks and gays; they have every right to resent his prejudices, and to reject him.

Yet, infuriatingly, he has raised a real and serious issue. The form of his criticism of Melanie Johnson, the prospective Labour candidate for his Weymouth constituency, was very unpleasant. But the underlying question is one of public concern. Miss Johnson has apparently been in a stable partnership for 18 years, and has had three children. She has not married the father of these children. She has had a useful public career as a magistrate, a manager in the National Health Service and a schools inspector. She was chosen for the constituency from a woman-only shortlist.

David Evans coarsely expressed the fact that she had three children outside marriage, and said she had never had a proper job. Her reply is: "I'm standing for election, not my children. I'm horrified that he could stoop so low as to abuse my three children with this foul word. How many parents will agree with David Evans that inspecting schools and raising standards is not a proper job?"

She has two valid points; David Evans should not have used abusive language about her children. If being a schools inspector was a proper job for her, however, that does not answer a third point. Her children are certainly in no way to blame for being born outside marriage, but is she in any way to blame for not getting married to the partner of 18 years, the father of her children? There are a number of possible answers to this. One is that it is a personal matter and that her possible

future constituents have no valid interest in it. Another is that cohabitation is as good as marriage for the welfare of the children. Yet another would be that there are some private circumstances which would make marriage impossible, though it is hard to think what they now might be.

In local terms, a Member of Parliament is a role model. David Evans himself is a role model, if a disgraceful one. Miss Johnson is already an establishment figure, a schools inspector and a magistrate, and she is putting herself forward for election

William Rees-Mogg

social statement. To criticise her arrangements should never be turned into a criticism of her children, but without further explanation, it can be a legitimate criticism of her.

She is of course not the only role model to be reluctant to accept the full social responsibility of the role. The Archbishop of Canterbury is an excellent role model himself, and recognises his own responsibility, but he seems to be remarkably relaxed about the responsibility of bishops. The Bishop of Birmingham, Mark Santer, is a widower; he has decided to marry a divorced person in a register office because such a marriage would not be accepted in the Church of England.

Everyone will feel personal sympathy for his position. His private happiness is an important consideration; no doubt if he were counselling a member of his congregation he would do so with compassion and understanding. But he is not just a member of the congregation. He is a bishop of a Church which is still fighting a rearguard action against divorce and the destruction of family

life. For him to marry in an entirely secular procedure is to set an example that such marriages are acceptable and that divorce is acceptable. A generation ago it would be unthinkable for a bishop to go through what is, in the eyes of his Church, an invalid marriage. We can equally feel personal sympathy with the Prince of Wales, but if he were, as a divorced man, to marry a divorced woman, that too would make him to that extent a negative role model for society.

We live in an age which has tried excessively hard to eliminate absolute rules. The absolute rule about marriage is that it is a lifelong and unlimited commitment. When both parties to a marriage perceive it in that way, it is much easier for them to maintain it. If you know that marriage is absolute, temporary problems are likely to remain just that. This is the great inferiority of non-married partnerships, and it is the great weakness of divorce. If the door is always ajar, there will always be the possibility that one or other partner will leave through it: each temporary problem requires another permanent decision, and sooner or later the temporary difference is as likely than not to be seen as irreconcilable. A loose structure of marriage, which has been made looser by this Government's "no fault" divorce laws, or mere cohabitation is much weaker than real marriage, and therefore much more difficult for the partners to maintain.

It is not, however, the partners who usually suffer most when marriages break up, but the children. Their suffering can last a lifetime. The modern weakening of marriage is only a part of a general weakening of the sense of responsibility towards children; that does so much harm and causes so much pain that it is hard to forgive. Apparently Kevin Costner has said that he will never feel like a real father to the person who is called his "love child". Has he any idea of what that remark may do to the life for which he is inescapably and permanently responsible? If you are not prepared to be a real father, you should not father the child; if you are not prepared to be a real mother, you should not become pregnant. Sex is an act with consequences that can stretch 80 or more years into the future: permanent marriage has the great advantage of being able to contain that unique responsibility. Nothing else can.

Labour's spring of discontent

Striking teachers are a portent, says Magnus Linklater

I like the expression "a cloud no bigger than a man's hand". It's just enough to suggest that a raincoat would be advisable — and that is how I picture the fraternal delegates as they congregate in Inverness tomorrow for Labour's last party conference before the election. With a substantial lead in the polls, and the Wirral by-election to confirm it, the mood should be one of exultation — and I dare say that will prevail. But when Tony Blair addresses the Scottish Conference in the afternoon, I doubt if Sheffield-style triumphalism will be on the agenda.

Some strange things are happening, which carry warning signals for Labour beyond the Scottish border. The dust will barely have settled on a one-day teachers' strike in Glasgow, which closed most of the city's 400 schools yesterday. Two more are planned later this month. In Edinburgh, strike action may disrupt the city council's budget meeting today. Throughout the country, up to 20,000 local government officers were expected to strike over planned job cuts. Remember, these are all Labour-controlled councils, where the very phrase "compulsory redundancies" is heresy. The result is a springtime of discontent, which could well turn into a long summer of protest unless something is done to reverse the effect of massive cuts and council tax increases of up to 22 per cent.

And yet, what comfort will the delegates be offered in Inverness this weekend? Blaming the Government is one thing. Explaining what Labour will do about it is quite another. There are uncomfortable signs that the public is losing confidence in the party's ability on both scores. An opinion poll earlier this week in the *Herald* showed Labour down by a fairly serious six points, the second successive drop it has recorded. The paper ascribed the fall-off almost entirely to Gordon Brown's bleak announcement that there would be no increase in income tax levels and no rise in public spending under Labour; what may be good news in Middle England has gone down less well North of the border. At the same time, the line that this is all the Government's fault is failing to convince the public. The same poll showed that voters held both local and national almost equally responsible for the crisis. And they no longer believe that a Labour government would provide any more in the way of funding. The electorate is becoming very well informed and very cynical — a dangerous combination.

At the same time, the expectation of better things ahead remains enormously high. Education shows up as the top priority for reform, backed by evidence on the streets. The turnout of demonstrators yesterday was far greater than anyone had anticipated, and it included parents as well as school staff. Sympathy for the teachers has not dried up, as it seems to have done in England; even the leader of Glasgow council, whose cuts are at the centre of the protest, said he thinks the teachers have a case. At party level, the emphasis remains determinedly old Labour: to judge from the glossy brochure for this week's conference, there is little to suggest that new Labour's lessons of thrift and discipline have made significant progress. The trade union advertisements speak of "defending public services... fighting for a socialist agenda... full employment and dignity at work... a national minimum wage to tackle poverty and inequality".

So Labour's attempts to reassure its party faithful, while at the same time insisting that no new money is available, begin to sound like a gagged man trying to make himself understood. Frantic head signals and a sort of strangled moaning is all that emerges. George Robertson, the Shadow Secretary of State, indicates that there will be "different spending priorities". There will be smaller classes in primary schools, but these, it is said, will be paid for by abolishing the Assisted Places Scheme (which, in its short life, has become surprisingly popular) and scrapping the nursery voucher scheme. There is no mention of the reality ahead: that schools in Glasgow will have to be closed because there are simply too many of them; that compulsory redundancies are inevitable wherever wins the election; that no amount of juggling the budget can meet the shortfalls that almost every council in Scotland faces.

From behind the gag come sounds that will not please Mr Blair: non-domestic rates, it is said, could be raised, placing the burden on business rather than the private citizen. Spending limits could be eased in the short term to allow the effects of local government reorganisation to settle. There are ways of reassessing spending priorities which would ease the constraints that councils face. It's all harder to define without falling out of line with party headquarters. Above all, it is unconvincing to the voter.

None of this, of course, will seriously threaten Labour's prospects on May 1. Its majority has been chipped, not seriously damaged. But it is worrying nevertheless. That cloud looks a bit bigger already.

Acting officers

MUTINY has been narrowly averted down at Sandhurst, where the officers have seen off some impertinent behaviour from the television programme *Soldier, Soldier*. Producers from the programme had asked to film at the 10th Royal Military Academy and Staff College point-to-point. This annual event at Tweseldown racecourse in Hampshire, where young officers go clattering over the fences, is one of the highlights of the Sandhurst calendar.

When news reached the barracks that a rearguard was instantly formed. "This is a horse-racing event not a film set," says one involved with the event. "We were certainly not going to have them stopping the horses every five minutes so they could waltz on and do their thespian things. And there was absolutely no way anyone was going to agree to be herded about like extras by some pushy film director with a megaphone."

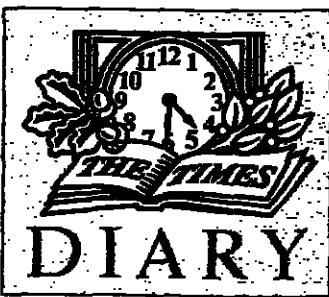
It is a mess joke whenever actors from the programme come to scramble over the Sandhurst assault course. All this despite the fact that the Army's official line is to support the show for its recruitment value.

Happily, after some polite negotiation, military decorum is safe. "The production team will be arriving early and will film with two fixed cameras. There will be no disruptions," says a racecourse official.

● Surprise at the BBC as it reveals the three stars of its general election line-up: John Humphrys, Jeremy Paxman and (drums roll)



"I've decided to settle your dismissal out of court"



Sybil Ruscoe of Radio 5 Live. As one within the BBC puts it: "It's as if the Tories came out and said 'We've got John Major, Michael Heseltine and Dame Elaine Kellie-Bowman'."

Fat chance

NO RISK of typecasting for the forthcoming film of *Gilded Gutter Life*, the memoirs of the art historian Daniel Farson. Decades of inspecting the bottoms of wine glasses around Soho have taken their toll on Farson's jowls. Yet the rather more chiselled Rupert Everett, star of *Another Country* and *The Comfort of Strangers*, has been asked to play him.

"I was very impressed by Everett," Farson tells me, "but he was not quite me. I was very naïve when I first hit Soho and Rupert

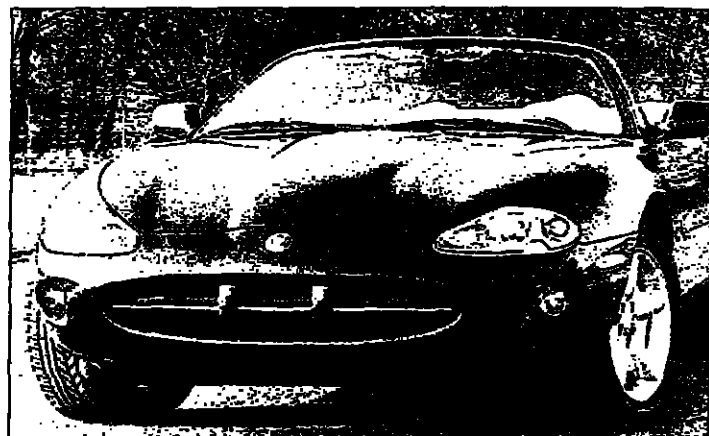
certainly isn't that. What's more, he's far too angular."

Happily, the choice of Derek Jacobi to play Francis Bacon wins Farson's approval: "Jacobi is spot on for the role. He bears a remarkable resemblance to the artist."

● Late at night in the Lords the other day, the Bishop of Ripon suggested a change to the name of the Qualifications and National Curriculum Authority. He wanted the "National" dropped for technical reasons. Lord Morris of Castle Morris, Labour's education man, observed: "It will now be called Quacker rather than Quanker."

Go Getty

A HIGHLY secretive 70th birthday party for the philanthropist John Paul Getty takes place tonight. He has chosen to spend £45,000 celebrating at the relaunched Café de Goldene, Raymond Benson, who has been commissioned by the Ian Fleming estate to write the next few Bond books, has been in talks with Jaguar about designing the new Bond car.



James Bond has given up his Aston Martin for a Jaguar

tends to present Getty with honorary membership, which will save him £300.

XX8 007

FOR the next series of James Bond books, 007 will be driving a Jaguar. After the sacrifice of the BMW driven by Pierce Brosnan in *Goldeneye*, Raymond Benson, who has been commissioned by the Ian Fleming estate to write the next few Bond books, has been in talks with Jaguar about designing the new Bond car.

He wants something to rival the classic Aston Martin DB5 for knee-trembling glamour, yet with a modern twist.

"The XX8 is top of the list at the moment," says Jaguar, which is now owned by the American Ford company. "We are helping Benson with the design and ideas for all the gizmos and gimmicks. We have suggested how the car might realistically be modified to include exploding hubcaps and other bits and pieces."

P-H-S



THE PENSION PLAN

Where Lilley has marched, Labour should follow

Peter Lilley's pension proposals have brought a gust of fresh air into the stale, smoky atmosphere of pre-election politics. These reforms are a radical solution to a huge problem; they show a willingness to think far beyond this Parliament or the next; and they prove Britain to be an innovator ahead of its European partners. In sum, they are an example of good government.

Whether they prove to be good politics is another matter. To present such a complicated and far-reaching plan just weeks before a general election is certainly curious timing. This is no little nugget to tempt the voters; indeed it will cost the taxpayer money for some 80-odd years. But it is a genuine attempt to grapple with the biggest public spending problem that governments of all shades will face over the next century.

Britain has nothing like the "pensions timebomb" that some other European countries face. Because this country's demographics are more favourable, and the pension age for women is to be raised, we shall have a healthier ratio of workers to pensioners. Because the basic state pension has been linked to prices rather than earnings, it costs the state less. And because the British have saved more for their retirement in occupational and private pensions than the rest of the EU put together, the burden on the taxpayer will be smaller. But, all that said, pensions are still set to take up an ever bigger share of the already-growing social security budget unless something is done.

The rationale for paying every citizen the same pension is also starting to fade. When the state pension was invented, life expectancy at retirement was only a few years. There were few occupational or private alternatives; so old age was closely correlated with poverty. Now that second pensions are so much more common, the old are much less likely to be poor. But the cost of paying everybody a pension for the many more years before they die will become prohibitive.

The effect of Mr Lilley's reforms is that, having given people a rebate throughout their working lives, the state will step in to provide a safety net for those whose pen-

sion funds fail them. This should eventually cut £40 billion a year from the projected £50 billion which the current system would otherwise cost — but not until 2060. Meanwhile, the taxpayer will have to pay twice over, providing pensions to everyone who retires before then, and paying rebates to the people in the new scheme. The net cost of this will peak at £7 billion a year.

It is this cost that has always deterred pension reformers in the past. And it is on the basis of this cost that Labour is opposing the proposals. Mr Lilley has managed to make it smaller than it would otherwise have been, by taxing pension contributions during people's working lives in return for not taxing their pensions when they retire. But it is still a burden that this working generation will have to swallow.

Many will consider it a price worth paying. For the new scheme has attractions beyond its eventual large savings to the Exchequer. It will allow people to own the whole of their pensions, instead of trusting some future government to abide by its predecessors' promises. Everyone will have a visible stake in the economy — and their pensions should rise in line with economic growth instead of merely with inflation. Unless the economy collapses or pension funds are run by crooks, most people will be much better off in retirement. And the Government's guarantee limits the risk.

If this scheme is to work, however, private pension providers must be tightly regulated. Otherwise they will be tempted either to overcharge customers or to opt for high-risk investments in the knowledge that the state will step in if they go wrong. Consumer confidence in the sector is currently low. It will have to be revived by tougher supervision.

Despite Labour's promises to be more radical than the Tories on welfare reform, the party's reaction shows it to be less forward-thinking. It is perhaps understandable that an Opposition used to planning ahead only until the election and a bit beyond should find it hard to appreciate the value of savings in 2060. But all welfare reform is painfully long-term. If Labour wants to be radical, it needs to adjust its sights.

SWISS ATONEMENT

Welcome words in the best of traditions

Rarely does one look for statesmanship from Switzerland or a visionary speech that ranks with the great declarations of European politics. But the address yesterday by President Koller to the Federal Assembly, confronting Switzerland's wartime role, treatment of Jewish asylum-seekers and dubious financial dealings with Nazi Germany, is a profoundly moving statement. It can be compared to the cathartic acknowledgement by Richard von Weizsäcker, the former German President, of German wartime knowledge of the Holocaust. Both men have faced the darkest periods of their country's history and redeemed some of their nation's honour.

Mr Koller noted that in the past few months the Swiss have been accused of dishonesty, stubbornness and arrogance; that the country's reputation has been tainted by the global impression that it enriched itself from the war; and that this severe criticism went to the foundation of Switzerland's economic values and its perception of ethics and morality. His countrymen, he noted, had reacted with outrage and bewilderment: surely they were less guilty than those who organised the deportations or gave vent to anti-Semitism? Others were questioning the value of Switzerland's wartime strategy. Was the country now paying neutrality's price?

He acknowledged that Switzerland's maladroitness had only made matters worse. Instead, he insisted, the past should be approached in a spirit of humility. Switzerland's reactions had been slow and defensive, giving the impression that only under pressure was it willing to deal com-

prehensively with its past. His words go to the nub of the antagonism Switzerland has evoked among Jewish groups; they also contrast starkly with the stance taken by his hapless predecessor, Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, who accused world Jewry of blackmail.

The sum now being offered to aid victims of human rights abuses, catastrophes and the Holocaust is enormous: if adopted by parliament, the gold reserves set aside will amount to some seven billion Swiss francs, generating several hundred million francs a year for needy recipients. This would be an undertaking as munificent and high-minded as that other monument to Swiss humanitarian commitment, the International Committee of the Red Cross. Mr Koller linked the gesture to Swiss gratitude for having been spared two World Wars. In truth, it is also an attempt to pre-empt the likely findings of the committee of historians that Switzerland acted disgracefully in turning away Jews and profiting from their persecution.

The importance of this atonement lies not in the sum offered, generous though it is. It is in the recognition that an historic wrong must be acknowledged. The behaviour of nations is remembered long after their guilty citizens die. The implications of Mr Koller's proposal, however, are even more far-reaching. They bring home to the Swiss, for the first time in centuries, that the Alps do not shield them from world opinion nor is neutral isolationism always the best policy. Little by little, Switzerland is reaching out to the world beyond its borders. The Government's initiative will do much to broaden the narrow-mindedness that, in recent months, has served the Swiss so ill.

THE DREAM TERRINE

If you can't stand the meat, get out of the laboratory

Is it a quail? Is it a chicken? No, it's a quail! Neuroscientists in California have crossed a quail with a chicken. However, their purpose is not to create a lumbering low-flying game bird as first a bigger target, and then a more substantial pot-roast. The experiment has lessons, we are told, about how the brain develops.

But such genetic breakthroughs also have lessons about how the food industry develops. Many inquisitive children already imagine that fish have fingers and that chickens are hatched already frozen in pieces with a packet of Kiev sauce. But new mutations will enable agribusiness to take even more of the toiling out of boiling. So a modern Mrs Beeton would have to recommend: "First breed your game pie." This is already happening in the continental sausage industry, where the mule makes its hybrid contribution to salami presumed to be plain horsemeat. Mutations will, however, have to leap a great deal higher before genetic science can contribute to the Belgian pâté that is advertised as half *cheval*, half *lapin*.

Such cross-cookery across the species is rare and usually sterile. The liger, offspring of a lion and a tigress, has been born only in zoos. So has the tigon, the cub of a tigress and a lion. Differences in behaviour and habitat make interbreeding of big cats in the

wild unlikely. And their offspring would be tricky to catch, and have too strong a flavour for all except the superstitious who follow the virile diet of "you are what you eat".

But before now free-range chickens have disappeared into the rhododendrons for a month, and reappeared with a clutch of chicks that look suspiciously like pheasants. Potatoes have already been crossed with tomatoes, more successfully than their pronouncements have been matched across the Atlantic. Scientists may yet breed the ingredients for veal and ham pie on the hoof or trotter. And in the long run, the stir-fry's limit. Sage and onion already grow together like a big toe and a bunion. A Sole Cardinal hybrid could avoid unpleasantness in the fish kettle, if only lobsters mated more easily. Eventually, crossing the kingdoms as well as the species, fish and chips?

In this brave new cuisine, there will be initial misunderstandings. When Marilyn Monroe was married to Arthur Miller, his mother always made matzo ball soup. After the tenth time, Marilyn said: "Gee, Arthur, these matzo balls are pretty nice, but isn't there any other part of the matzo you can eat?" Man is the animal that cooks. And good cooking has been an art since the Stone Age. In the Clone Age it has also become a science at the crossing edge.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Devolution for Scotland and the integrity of the UK

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Scotland

Sir, Matthew Parris ("The West Lothian nightmare", February 28; see also letters, February 15, 21, 25, 28) paints a fearsome scenario based on an automatic tension between a devolved Parliament in Edinburgh and the Parliament at Westminster. I'd like him to consider two alternative futuristic articles based on more realistic scenarios.

The first is the return at the next election of the Conservative Party with an even more diminished presence in Scotland. At the moment they rule Scotland and take every single legislative, administrative and executive decision with 15 per cent in the polls and only ten of the 72 seats.

In a fifth Tory term we can expect no constitutional change and the views of the vast majority of the Scottish electors to be again ignored and defied. The sole offer is the farcical travelling Scottish Grand Committee held up by the Director of the Conservative Political Centre, Alistair B. Cooke (letter, February 28), as the Tory answer to devolution.

Does anyone imagine that this would be a formula for stability in the United Kingdom? What conclusion will the Scottish people take from the denial of any devolution for them when the Prime Minister himself continues to offer legislative devolution to Northern Ireland? Would not the tensions arising from this scenario be a more plausible, and more frightening, basis to fuel some Matthew Parris nightmare for the integrity of the UK?

The second scenario might be constructed on the fact that what Labour is offering is by far the favoured option of the Scottish people. It might note that the decision to go ahead with the project will be subject to a referendum to obtain the specific consent of the Scots to what is proposed.

It might also build into the speculation that since democratisation of the existing bureaucratic devolution in Scotland is what the people want, they will live with their own decision and its consequences. After all, the Scottish people have lived without revolution for the last 18 years as laws affecting only Scotland, like the poll tax, were made by an English Tory majority.

The devolution proposals for Scotland are safe, sensible and thought-through; they were the subject of detailed debate and agreement in a constitutional convention which included the Liberal Democrats, the Scottish churches, trade unions, elected councillors and the widest group of civic organisations ever before assembled in Scotland on this issue.

In contrast, the unbending and in-

sensitive "no-change" attitude of the Conservatives betrays the kind of arrogant contempt for reasonable change which is the real enemy of the unity of our country.

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE ROBERTSON,
Shadow Secretary of State
for Scotland,
House of Commons,
March 2.

From Professor Vernon Bogdanor

Sir, Of all the arguments against a Scottish Parliament, none can be more preposterous than Alistair Cooke's claim that the "expansion of the Scottish Grand Committee" is itself a form of devolution because "it can deal with all Scottish legislation" and "it can call all ministers (not just Scottish Office ministers) to account". That is just what it cannot do.

When, in November 1995, MPs asked whether the committee could block nursery vouchers in Scotland, Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, said No, since "the absolute Westminster veto over Scottish business remains" and "the Scottish Grand Committee is not a Scottish Parliament".

It is difficult to understand why our supposedly flexible constitution suddenly becomes inflexible when it is called upon to meet the claims of Scots, and perhaps others also, for greater autonomy. In Italy, five regions, including Sicily and Sardinia, enjoyed autonomy for 22 years before it was granted to other regions. In Spain, Catalonia and the Basque country gained autonomy before other regions. Yet no one proposed a West Sardinian Question or a West Catalan Question; nor were Spain or Italy on the verge of break-up.

Home Rule in Greenland and the Faeroes allows them to remain outside the European Union, while Denmark remains a member state. Yet nothing is ever heard of a West Greenland Question; and nor is Denmark about to disintegrate.

Experience in Western Europe shows that Lord Jenkins of Hillhead (letter, February 25) is right, and that reconciling nations and regions with strong identities serves to contain separatism rather than stimulating it. If that is correct, then devolution will strengthen the United Kingdom, not weaken it.

Yours faithfully,
VERNON BOGDANOR,
Brasenose College, Oxford,
March 1.

From Professor Emeritus Sir Harry Hinsley, FBA

Sir, In the intensifying debate about devolution reference seems never to be

made to an obvious consideration, alongside which the West Lothian Question is a red herring. I suppose this neglect must be due to this country's long history as a unitary state.

In single states in which powers are devolved to regional or provincial parliaments or assemblies and which are federal in that sense — the United States, Australia, Germany are some examples — it will always be found that a federal parliament exists in addition to, and in some respects superior to, the devolved parliaments.

All historical experience suggests that if a parliament is established for Scotland and Wales and restored for Ulster, it will be wise to establish a parliament for England, and even parliaments for English provinces if unthinking regionalism continues to spread, and to see that their competencies are carefully related to the powers of a parliament for the United Kingdom. I would go so far as to say that unless this step is taken, devolution will inescapably lead to separatism.

It may be feared that the introduction of two layers of MPs, national and regional, would lead to an unwelcome increase in the total number of MPs. But such a federal structure, properly designed, could be made to yield the opposite result.

Yours sincerely,
F. H. HINSLEY,
St John's College, Cambridge,
February 28.

From Professor Ian Levitt

Sir, Magnus Linklater is not quite correct in saying ("Scotsman on the make", February 27) that *The Scotsman* "has worshipped at the altar of devolution for the best part of 100 years". This has certainly been the case since at least the Second World War; but between the 1890s and early 1920s it vehemently opposed any form of political devolution, fearing a legislature dominated by a coalition of the temperance reformer, the disaffected crofter and the militant shop steward.

In 1894 it described an Assembly as "the provincialisation of Scotland" which would narrow Scottish interests and reduce Scottish rights over British commercial policy. Nationalism was the irrational response of those who lacked the wider vision. Perhaps the paper has returned to that view?

Yours sincerely,
IAN LEVITT,
University of Central Lancashire,
Department of Historical and Critical Studies,
Preston PR1 2HE,
February 27.

guarantee to the Poles (and the Hungarians and the Czechs, and later perhaps others too) and then find that in the event we either could not, or would not, honour it, would compound rather than redeem the debt. How credible would our Nato guarantee really be?

Would the United States, Britain, France and Germany really be prepared to risk war with a nuclear power in defence of Poland in a conflict with say, Belarus or Ukraine, or even Russia itself, over a border dispute which had escalated into military action? And are the evident risks to political stability and moderation in Russia of moving Nato's boundaries right up to those of the former Soviet Union really justified by such a questionable enterprise?

Creative diplomacy must be able to come up with a more convincing approach to mutual security in Europe, one that takes account of the situation of the late 1990s rather than that of 1949 for which Nato was designed.

Yours sincerely,
BRIAN BARDER,
(British Ambassador to Poland,
1986-88; High Commissioner to
Australia, 1991-94),
10 Melrose Road, SW18,
February 27.

Nato enlargement

From Sir Brian Barder

Sir, Sir Bryan Cartledge (letter, February 26) argues persuasively for Nato enlargement to embrace Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic as a means of redeeming the debt of honour incurred by the West at Munich and at Yalta [other letters, February 12, 17, March 3]. It is useful to be reminded of past promises that we in the West, or our parents and grandparents, failed to keep.

When I served as a diplomat in Poland in the 1980s, before the Wall came down, I sometimes had to remind visiting parliamentarians and others that nostalgic reminiscences about Britain's declaration of war in September 1939 in the cause of Polish independence cut little ice with Poles who had expected Britain and France to come to their aid at that time but had been cruelly disappointed. Our pre-war defence guarantees to Australia proved similarly impossible to fulfil.

Certainly it would help to extend the protection of the Nato guarantee now to Poland — and prepared genuinely to honour it if and when necessary. But to give yet another well-meant

Full house

From Dr John H. Greensmith

Sir, Really, Mr Harries-Harris (letter, March 3): 5.8 people turning up to watch Scunthorpe United play at home?

They wish!

Yours faithfully,
JOHN GREENSMITH,
36a North Street,
Downend, Bristol,
March 1.

even keener to help than John Gummer might wish. Hence local authorities are seeking an even lower threshold to the size of sites on which they can seek social housing units from commercial developers. If the Government's target of providing more than 60 per cent of new housing on re-used land is to be met, planning authorities will need to be encouraged to grant permission for housing, not accused of gerrymandering.

Mr Gummer has just published a new edition of Planning Policy Guidance Note 1, with a welcome new section entitled "Propriety". This makes

Letters that are intended for publication should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

Honourable mix-up

From the Hon William Meston

Sir, If Lord Lloyd-Webber (report, February 27; letter, March 4) was styled Lord Lloyd Webber of Sunset Boulevard Avenue there would be no need for a hyphen.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM MESTON,
11 The Green,
Mistley, Manningtree, Essex,
March 4.

it clear that members of local planning authorities are elected to represent the interests of the whole community in planning matters, and that decisions must be based on receiving open and impartial professional advice. Councillors should have good reasons, based on land-use planning grounds, if they choose to refuse such advice.

The RTP warmly welcomes that guidance and would be disappointed if Mr Gummer's reported comments to Nolan distract attention from the very real issues posed by the house-hold-growth debate and the need for social housing.

Yours etc,
TONY STRUTHERS, President,
Royal Town Planning Institute,
26 Portland Place, W1,
February 27.

Episcopal prayer for Labour victory

From the Reverend Michael Windridge

Sir, The Bishop of Worcester elect, Professor Peter Selby, whom you describe (report, March 1) as "an assistant bishop and top academic", has undoubtedly intellectual abilities. Sadly, he has also gained for the Church the highest honours in episcopal divisiveness. As you report, Professor Selby's published prayer for a Labour victory will add one further name to the succession of Anglican bishops who have elected to come out in public support of the Labour Party. By so doing, I believe they have risked compromising the authority of the special office into which they are ordained and consecrated.

By appropriating the authority of their ordained status to advertise their particular political party loyalties, the bishops have demonstrated that the pastoral charge given to them of promoting unity amongst the people of their own dioceses, and of the wider Church, takes lower precedence than advancing their own political agenda.

In the run up to a general election, Church of England bishops must recover the moral resolve to avoid being tempted into engaging in party political conflict. Only then, without perceived prejudice, can they participate convincingly in our national political debate. They may even discover fellow Christians, with political convictions as deeply held as their own, who dare to question whether a Tony Blair government would automatically herald the coming of God's Kingdom.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL WINDRIDGE,
27 Stratford Road,
Twickenham, Middlesex,
March 2.

Field sports

From Mr Stuart Nelson

Sir, I was not pleased to see the sport of hare coursing referred to as a "blood sport" in your report, "Hares may have met their last Waterloo" (February 26). This title, usually given to the whole range of field sports (which incidentally is the correct name), creates a totally wrong impression. After all, boxing, where you would see far more blood flying than you ever would out in the field, is never referred to as a "blood sport". And why not? Because it suggests that the supporters are there purely for the blood, guts and gore. This is not true either of boxing or the field sports.

People who follow field sports do so for the interest of seeing nature at work. It is fascinating to watch hounds hunting by sight. Indeed, I have learnt a considerable amount about the countryside and nature from following field sports, not to mention the many other reasons I support them, such as conservation, population control, rural employment and access to the countryside.

I only wish more people would wake up to the fact that field sports are good for the flora and fauna.

Yours faithfully,
STUART NELSON,
Church Farm Riding School,
Hilston, East Yorkshire,
March 1.

Pre-match let-down

From Mr John Tusa

Sir, Melvyn Bragg is wrong in thinking that the BBC TV sports build-up before the England/France Twickenham international was just a bit of fun (article, March 3). It was on exactly the same lines as the advertising before the England/Italy football match.

The message of both was simple and deliberately anti-intellectual: "Let those continentals have their sculpture and philosophy. We'll show them how to play the games we invented. See if their philosophy helps them." We lost both. Sad about the sport, sadder still about the underlying attitude.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN TUSA,
21 Christchurch Hill, NW3,
March 3.

No change

From Professor Frank Knowles

Sir, During a journey on a recently privatised railway route I heard the following announcement, which was relayed from the buffet car:

To maintain the level of service to which you are accustomed, it will be necessary for us to close down the buffet for a short period.

Yours faithfully,
FRANK KNOWLES,
221 St Bernard's Road,
Solihull, West Midlands.

Portillo: the correction

From Mr Adam Clapham

Sir, Reading your correction today that Michael Portillo was educated at Harrow County Boys' School and not Harrow, it intrigues me to know whether the correction was prompted by Harrow County Boys' School claiming the Defence Secretary or Harrow School disowning him.

Yours faithfully,
ADAM CLAPHAM,
254 Alexandra Park Road, N22,
March 5.

COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
March 3: The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, today visited the Queen and King's National Park in Hungary.

His Royal Highness this evening attended a Dinner for World Wide Fund for Nature in Budapest.

March 4: The Duke of Edinburgh this morning visited the Pető Institute, Budapest.

His Royal Highness afterwards called upon the Prime Minister of Hungary.

The Duke of Edinburgh left Hungary this afternoon and flew to Turkey.

This evening His Royal Highness, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, attended a Dinner for DUKD (Society for the Protection of Nature in Turkey) in Istanbul.

March 5: His Excellency Mr Murad Charvillat was received in audience by the Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador to the Court of St James's.

John Coles (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs) was present.

Admiral Leigh-Smith was received by the Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of an Honorary Knight Commander of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath.

General Sir Roger Wheeler was received by the Queen upon his appointment as Chief of the General Staff.

The President of the Republic of Zimbabwe and Mrs Mugabe visited Her Majesty and remained to luncheon.

The Duke of York was present. The following were invited: Dr Stan Mudenge (Minister of Foreign Affairs), Dr Herbert Murewa (Minister of Finance), Dr Nathan Shamuyirira (Minister of Industry and Commerce), His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Republic of Zimbabwe and Mrs Chikwira, the Baronsess Chalker of Wallasey, Sir John Coles and Mr Martin Williams.

The Duke of Edinburgh left Turkey this morning.

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

The Duke of Edinburgh, President, National Playing Fields Association, was represented by Mr Christopher Laing (Chairman) at the Memorial Service for Mr Barry East which was held in the West London Synagogue this morning.

March 5: The Princess Royal this morning opened the new Care for the Elderly Unit, Ferryfield House, for the Edinburgh Healthcare NHS Trust and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh (Mr Eric Miligan, the Rt Hon Lord Provost).

Her Royal Highness, Patron, the Mordun Foundation for Animal Health and Welfare, this afternoon chaired the Retiree Lecture by Professor Ian Aiken at Penlands Science Centre, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Midlothian (Captain George Burnet).

Birthdays today

Dr M.G. Adam, astrophysicist, 85; Sir Peter Barclay, former chairman, Social Security Advisory Committee, 71; Miss Jean Bohl, actress, 61; Mr William Davis, author, broadcaster and former chairman, British Tourist Authority, 64; Mr Don Dixon, MP, 68; Professor Sir Charles Frank, physicist, 82; Mr David Gilmore, musician and singer, 51; Sir Alistair Grant, chairman, Safeway, 60; Professor David Hendry, FBA, Professor of Economics, Oxford University, 53; Professor Sir Raymond Hoffenberg, former President, Wolfson College, Oxford, 74; Mr

The Princess Royal, President, The Princess Royal Trust for Carers, this evening attended the English Symphony Orchestra Concert at St James's Palace.

ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 5: Lieutenant-Colonel Hamish Macdonald today had the honour of being received by Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, Colonel-in-Chief, The Queen's Dragoon Guards, upon relinquishing his appointment as Commanding Officer.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Mayall also had the honour of being received by Her Majesty upon assuming his appointment as Commanding Officer of 1st The Queen's Dragoon Guards, St James's Palace.

The following were present and took leave of His Royal Highness: Minister Plenipotentiary and Deputy Head of Mission from the Royal Embassy of Saudi Arabia, the Mohammed Al-Hussaini and the Station Commander (Group Captain David Vass).

His Royal Highness was received on arrival in Saudi Arabia by Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz.

The Prince of Wales later attended a Luncheon given by Prince Miteb bin Abdul Aziz.

His Royal Highness, with Crown Prince Abdullah, this afternoon attended the Janadriya Festival.

The Prince of Wales this evening attended a Dinner given by the Crown Prince.

Lieutenant Commander John Lavery RN and Miss Sandy Henney are in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
March 5: The Duke of Kent, President, this morning attended a Committee Meeting of the Automobile Association, at Norfolk House, Basingstoke, Hampshire.

THATCHED HOUSE LODGE
March 5: Princess Alexandra, Patron of Home-Start, this afternoon visited the Kingsley School at 133 Kingston Road, New Malden, Surrey.

Today's royal engagements

The Queen will visit Kingsbury High School, Princes Avenue, Brent, NW9, at 2.45.

The Duke of Kent, President, will attend a Council Meeting at Saddlers' Hall at 10.30. Later, she will attend the Institute of Petroleum's annual dinner at Glasgow Thistle Hotel, Glasgow, at 6.30.

The Duchess of Gloucester will attend a concert in aid of St Christopher's Fellowship Howard House Appeal at the Church of St James, St James's Gardens, W1, at 7.45.

The Duke of Kent, will visit HMS Plymouth at sea on operational training at 7.45 am.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will unveil her portrait at Downing College, Cambridge, at 6.35 and later will attend a dinner.

Receptions

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was the host at a reception held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street in recognition of the value of education.

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a reception given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of the overseas delegates of the Forty-Sixth Parliamentary Seminar 1997 of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

HM Government
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of Dr Ivan Stantchev, Foreign Minister of Hungary.

Newspaper Society
Mr Robin Burgess, President of the Newspaper Society, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane to mark the retirement of Mr Dugal Nisbet-Smith, director of the society. Among those present were:

Lord Huxley of North Bradley, Lord McGregor of Durris, the Hon Sir Richard Storey, the Hon Jonathan Harmsworth, Sir Gordon Linacre, Sir Edward Pickering, Sir Frank Rogers, Sir Roy Gifford, Sir John Oakes, Mr Frank Barlow, Mr Stanley Clarke, Mr Fred Johnson, Mr Ian Park, Mr Derek Small, Mr Edwin Brooman, Mr Ted Crosbie, Mr Alan Graham, Mr Michael Mander, Mr Perry Roberts, Mr David Newell, Mr Chris Oakley and Mr Gerry Wilkinson.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.



The Beach at Trouville, painted by Monet in 1870, being hung at the National Gallery yesterday for an exhibition of most of the Monet paintings on view in London which opens next Wednesday. More than 658,000 people went to the last big Monet show in London at the Royal Academy in 1990.

Receptions

Prime Minister
The Prime Minister was the host at a reception held yesterday evening at 10 Downing Street in recognition of the value of education.

HM Government
Mr Malcolm Rifkind, QC, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a reception given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of the overseas delegates of the Forty-Sixth Parliamentary Seminar 1997 of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association.

HM Government
Sir Nicholas Bonsor, Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, was the host at a luncheon given yesterday by Her Majesty's Government at Lancaster House in honour of Dr Ivan Stantchev, Foreign Minister of Hungary.

Newspaper Society
Mr Robin Burgess, President of the Newspaper Society, was the host at a luncheon held yesterday at the London Hilton on Park Lane to mark the retirement of Mr Dugal Nisbet-Smith, director of the society. Among those present were:

Lord Huxley of North Bradley, Lord McGregor of Durris, the Hon Sir Richard Storey, the Hon Jonathan Harmsworth, Sir Gordon Linacre, Sir Edward Pickering, Sir Frank Rogers, Sir Roy Gifford, Sir John Oakes, Mr Frank Barlow, Mr Stanley Clarke, Mr Fred Johnson, Mr Ian Park, Mr Derek Small, Mr Edwin Brooman, Mr Ted Crosbie, Mr Alan Graham, Mr Michael Mander, Mr Perry Roberts, Mr David Newell, Mr Chris Oakley and Mr Gerry Wilkinson.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

University news
Oxford
Dr Henry Mayr-Harting, Fellow Reader in Medieval History, and Regius Professor of Ecclesiastical History in the University of Oxford and a Lay Canon of Christ Church Cathedral.

He succeeds the late Rev Peter Hinchliff.

Memorial services

Mr Bertram East
The Duke of Edinburgh was represented by Mr Christopher Laing, Chairman of the National Playing Fields Association, at a memorial service for Mr Bertram East, property developer, held yesterday at the West London Synagogue.

Canon Adrian Harman officiated. Mr Douglas Insole, President of Essex County Cricket Club, and Mr Paul Orchard-Lisle, Senior Partner of Healey and Baker, gave addresses.

Group Captain W.G.G. Duncan Smith
Air Vice-Marshal T.B. Sherrington represented the Air Staff at a memorial service for Group Captain W.G.G. Duncan Smith held yesterday at St Clement Dances.

The Rev Peter Bishop officiated. Mrs Jean Calabrese, daughter, Mr Barrie Duncan Smith, Mr Mr Duncan Smith, sons, and Mr Duncan Smith gave readings. Lord Merlyn-Rees gave an address.

Henry Miles Gosling
A Memorial Service for Henry Miles Gosling will be held at St Edmund's Church, Bicester on Monday, March 24, 1997, at 2.30pm.

Anniversaries
BIRTHS: Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter and poet, Caprese, Tuscany, 1475; Savonarola, Dominican monk and reformer, Ferrara, 1469; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, Durham, 1806; George du Maurier, caricaturist and novelist, Paris, 1834.

DEATHS: Davy Crockett, frontiersman, killed in the Battle of the Alamo, Texas, 1836; Charles Farrar Browne (pen name of Artemus Ward), humorous writer, Southampton, 1867; Louisa May Alcott, novelist, Boston, Massachusetts, 1888; Gottlieb

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

Miss Joy Harley-Mason

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Miss Joy Harley-Mason, former Headmistress of Beverley School, Selhurst School and Guildford High School, will be held at Guildford High School on Wednesday, March 26, 1997, at 1.30pm. For further information please contact 01483 502323.

Mr Cecil Lewis

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Cecil Lewis, MC, will be held on Thursday, June 12, 1997, at noon at St Clement Dances, Strand, WC2.

Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, FRS

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life and work of Professor Sir Geoffrey Wilkinson, FRS, Nobel Laureate, will be held at Holy Trinity, Brompton, London SW7, on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 6.30pm.

Bill Bedford

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Bill Bedford, OBE, AFC, FRAS, will be held on Thursday, March 13, 1997, at 11.00am at St Clement Dances, Strand, WC2.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Michelangelo Buonarroti, sculptor, painter and poet, Caprese, Tuscany, 1475; Savonarola, Dominican monk and reformer, Ferrara, 1469; Elizabeth Barrett Browning, poet, Durham, 1806; George du Maurier, caricaturist and novelist, Paris, 1834.

DEATHS: Davy Crockett, frontiersman, killed in the Battle of the Alamo, Texas, 1836; Charles Farrar Browne (pen name of Artemus Ward), humorous writer, Southampton, 1867; Louisa May Alcott, novelist, Boston, Massachusetts, 1888; Gottlieb

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader, Reading, Pennsylvania, 1932; Herbert Morrison, Baron Morrison of Lambeth, statesman, Sidcup, 1965; Zoltan Kodaly, composer, Budapest, 1907; Pearl S. Buck, novelist, Nobel laureate 1938, Danbury, Vermont, 1993.

The Herald of Free Enterprise ferry capsized outside Zeebrugge harbour with the loss of more than 200 lives, 1987.

Anniversaries
Daimler, pioneer of the internal combustion engine, Cannstatt, Germany, 1800; John Philip Sousa, composer and band leader,

OBITUARIES

CAPTAIN A. J. BAKER CRESSWELL

Captain A. J. Baker Cresswell, DSO, wartime destroyer commander, died on March 4 aged 96. He was born on February 2, 1901.

Through his quick thinking during a U-boat attack on a convoy in the North Atlantic in May 1941, Joe Baker Cresswell made an immeasurable contribution to the Royal Navy's victory in the Battle of the Atlantic. When the U-boat *U110* was brought to the surface by Baker Cresswell's ship *Bulldog* and abandoned by her crew, it was a natural instinct to sink her by gunfire or ramming, before picking up survivors. But just as one of *Bulldog*'s escorting destroyers was getting up speed to accomplish the latter, Baker Cresswell suddenly remembered his staff college lecture on the capture of valuable German ciphers from the light cruiser *Magdeburg* in 1914. To the surprise of his fellow escort commanders, he ordered all offensive action to cease and instead had the German submarine boarded. Among the resulting haul of highly classified documents and equipment recovered was a German Enigma machine which enabled high-grade "officer only" *Kriegsmarine* signal traffic to be read. It was one of the vital blows struck in the battle against the U-boats.

Addison Joe Baker Cresswell was educated at Gresham's School, Holt, and joined the Royal Navy in 1918. Specialising in navigation, he was promoted to commander by 1937 and the outbreak of the war found him on General Wavell's staff in Cairo.

From 1940 he was on convoy escort duty and was to be involved, in one way or another, in anti-submarine warfare until the end of the war. On May 9, 1941, he was commanding the destroyer *Bulldog*, as senior officer of the escort group covering convoy OB318 in the North Atlantic south of Iceland. OB318 had already been attacked by a number of U-boats, among which was *U110*, commanded by Kapitänleutnant Fritz-Julius Lemp, whose sinking of



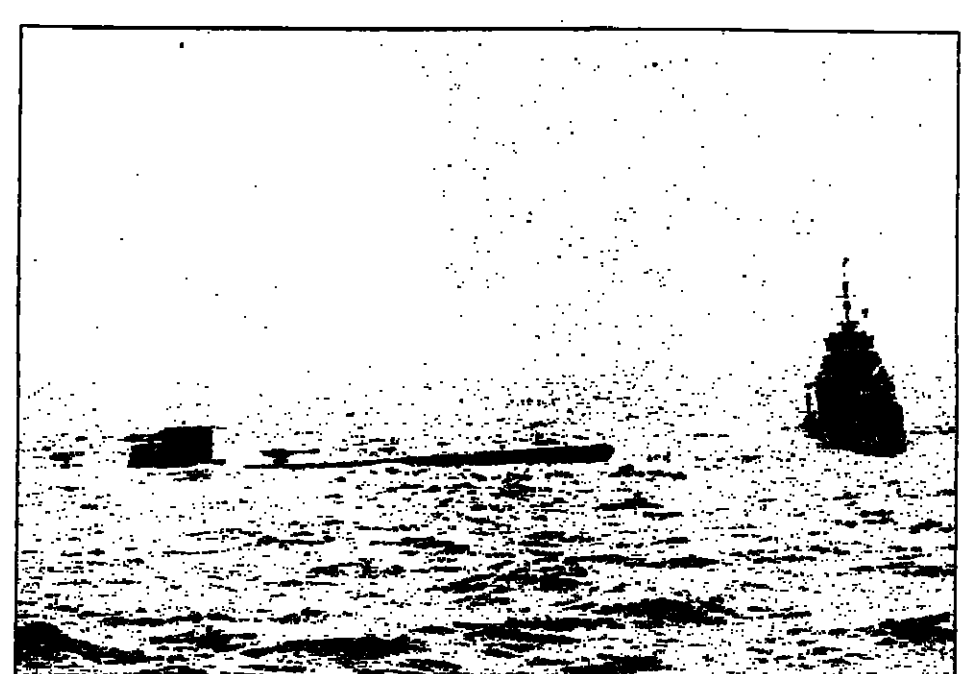
the liner *Athenia* on September 1, 1939, had precipitated the U-boat war.

With Lieutenant Kuppisch in *U94* Lemp had already scored some striking success against OB318, sinking two of its merchant ships. But in a momentary lapse of concentration he failed to perceive the danger from the convoy's escorts and was himself attacked by the destroyers *Bulldog*, *Broadway* and *Aubretia*, the last of which wreaked terminal damage on the submarine, with a well placed pattern of depth charges. With hydroplanes and rudder wrecked, all power and lighting out and with water surging in, Lemp ordered all tanks to be blown and the stricken *U110* lurched to the surface.

Baker Cresswell ordered his guns' crews to open fire and set course to ram, as did the captain of *Broadway*, Lemp, meanwhile, told his crew to abandon ship as 4.7-inch, 3-inch and pom-pom shells burst about his stricken craft.

It was at that point that Baker Cresswell had the happy inspiration not to administer the coup de grace, but to board the hapless enemy. Ordering his own and *Broadway*'s guns' crews to check their fire, he had *Bulldog*'s seaboard launched. But with foresight he had the German prisoners picked out of the water, first, and hustled below so that they should not see what was happening.

Lemp, however, could see exactly what was intended and, in the confusion, swam back to *U110* with one of his petty officers, perhaps with



Seawolf at bay: top, *U110* forced to the surface as *Bulldog* lowers her whaler which then pulls across a heavy swell to the stricken submarine

some idea of manning her gun, or of going below and destroying top-secret material. Baker Cresswell, who had no intention of allowing himself to come under fire from an enemy craft whose life he had already spared, ordered fire to be opened again with a Lewis gun, and the two men, who could be seen in the vicinity of the U-boat's deck gun, were hit

and disappeared over the side. Lemp was never seen again. *Bulldog*'s whaler now closed with the submarine and Sublieutenant Balme, who was in charge of the boat, went below and discovered unsuspected riches of codebooks, charts showing German minefields and, above all, the invaluable naval Enigma machine. The list of settings

for it was found in Lemp's cabin, making this one of the most important naval intelligence breakthroughs of the war. This priceless acquisition was ferried back to *HMS Bulldog*.

From that moment until February 1942 high grade German naval signals traffic could be read without delay at the decoding facility at

Bletchley Park. There was then a gap when the Germans introduced extra rotors to the Enigma. But when *HMS Petard* captured the new rotors from *U559* in the Mediterranean in November 1942, the flow of signals could be deciphered once more.

Once the signals office of *U110* had been cleared of valuable material, the boat was taken in tow by *Bulldog*. The aim was to tow her into Reykjavik, but during that night a gale sprang up and she suddenly started sinking by the stern. Reluctantly, Baker Cresswell ordered the towline to be slipped. But the accident was perhaps a lucky one. The Germans heard that *U110* had been sunk and throughout the war never realised that the Enigma she carried had been compromised.

In Britain, too, all records of the event were expunged and even the official naval history, *The War at Sea* (1954), by Captain S. W. Roskill made no mention of it. At the investiture for his DSO, Baker Cresswell was told by King George VI that his feat was one of the most significant events of the war at sea, and but for the necessity for security, a higher award would have been made. It was only in the 1980s, when the secret of Ultra intelligence was allowed to be published, that Baker Cresswell's exploit entered the public domain.

After *Bulldog*, Baker Cresswell was put in charge of training escort vessels and their crews from the converted steam yacht *Phaetone*, and was subsequently Chief of Staff to Sir Max Horton, C-in-C Western Approaches. His last wartime appointment was as Senior Officer Far Eastern Escort Vessels. After the war he served as Deputy Director of Naval Intelligence, retiring from the Navy in 1947.

In retirement in Northumberland, he threw himself into local public service as a JP and as chairman of Alnwick Infirmary. He was appointed High Sheriff of Northumberland in 1963. He loved country sports, particularly fishing.

In 1926 he married Roma, from Auckland. She and a son and daughter survive him. Another daughter predeceased him.

DR GUY WIGLEY



Dr Guy Wigley, former Medical Adviser to the Greater London Council, died on February 9 aged 83. He was born on January 28, 1914.

AN INNOVATOR both in his professional life and during his retirement, as County Medical Officer for Middlesex from 1962 to 1965 (and as deputy from 1950) Guy Wigley pioneered changes in treatment and care for the mentally ill and mentally handicapped.

Under his direction, in 1957 the Middlesex health department set up the first special care unit in the world for mentally handicapped children. He was prominent in other pioneering ventures including the first of Middlesex's many homes for the post-hospital mentally ill (1960) and the first day centre for the elderly mentally infirm (1964).

With the reorganisation of local government he transferred to the Greater London Council as deputy medical adviser from 1965 to 1973 and medical adviser until his retirement in 1979. Here too he was an enthusiastic innovator. He reformed the London Ambulance Service and helped to develop new resuscitation techniques and training for paramedics. He streamlined staff medical services.

His energy was also displayed outside his working hours. He was a trustee of the Disabled Living Foundation since its inception and a member of many organisations in the field of mental and other handicaps.

His background, however, was solidly conventional. He

lived in the same Edwardian house in Barnes for over 70 years, until he and his wife Louise, to whom he was married for more than 50 years until her death in 1988, moved to a riverside flat a few hundred yards away.

He was educated at St Paul's School, trained at Guy's Hospital immediately before the Second World War, and after a year in general practice joined the Royal Navy. He saw active service on Malta and Russian convoys and reached the rank of surgeon lieutenant-commander.

In retirement, the high spot of his year was to attend the Henley Regatta. He also liked nothing better than to pick out the different rowing crews as they passed his window, which gave him a perfect view from Barnes Bridge to Chiswick Eyt. Until he was 80 he would start each day with a two-mile walk across Barnes and Putney Commons for a one-mile swim at a local pool.

He also sustained his commitment to improvements in the wellbeing of the mentally ill and mentally handicapped, and was the first chairman of the Richmond and Barnes Association for Mental Health, which supported a series of group homes as stepping stones back into society for those recovering from mental breakdowns. He also started a highly successful counselling service.

He was helping troubled people up to the end by listening to their difficulties whenever they telephoned or came to see him.

He leaves a son and daughter.

LORD KINNAIRD

Lord Kinnauld, 13th Lord Kinnauld, died on February 27 aged 84. He was born on September 15, 1912.

LORD KINNAULD lived and died by the hereditary principle, for he was the last in a line tracing its origins to feudal times and, with his death, a barony becomes extinct. A diligent member of the House of Lords, he made quirky contributions to its proceedings and, after a career in banking and stockbroking, returned to Scotland to run the family estate.

When Graham Charles Kinnauld came of age the feudal spirit lingered: a bonfire was lit on Dron Hill, overlooking Rossie Priory, the family seat near Inchture in Perthshire, and the young Master was given various gifts by tenants and servants, then numbering about 200 in an estate of 12,000 acres.

He traced his line to Radaphus Rufus, granted a feudal charter by William the Lion, King of Scotland from 1165 to 1214. The Scottish peerage was created in 1652, the 1st Lord Kinnauld having been knighted by King

Charles II. The UK barony of Rossie was created in 1860 for the 9th Lord Kinnauld.

The young Kinnauld was educated at Eton and entered banking, in which there was a strong family tradition. His family had been active from the early 19th century in Morland, Ransom of Pall Mall, later taken over by Barclays. It had also been involved in the promotion of the railways and sport: Kinnauld's grandfather was an outstanding football player for Old Etonians and president of the Football Association for more than 50 years.

Kinnauld served as a flying officer in the RAF Volunteer Reserve and in the 45th Battalion of the Black Watch. After the war, he settled in Essex and commuted to the City of London, where he worked in a small firm of stockbrokers in the days before the Big Bang, when the City was a village run by gentlemen.

He returned to Scotland about five years before the death of his father and took over the running of the estate, now somewhat reduced by death duties but still a substantial mixture of arable and

hill land. He found great pleasure in his trips to London and the family flat in Chelsea, and for some 20 years was a regular attendee at the House of Lords.

In the light of the contemporary discussion about the hereditary component in the Upper House, his speeches and interventions over the years make interesting reading. He was at once both fiercely conservative on the matter of tradition and staunchly liberal on the matter of individual rights. Despite a tendency to flirt with the mixed metaphor, his speeches show flashes of eloquence.

His maiden speech in 1973 was on the subject of noise — because he had been advised to choose as a topic "something that makes me really angry". He was a light sleeper in his flat in Durham Place which, he said, seemed like an extension to the runway at Heathrow — in a later exchange a minister was to acknowledge it was the Clapham Junction of the skies. Kinnauld described noise as a living enemy "its waves of assault are like those of the sea. They come at you from all directions, like flashes from a bomb as it bursts." He returned to the same subject in the first question he tabled, when he asked at what height aircraft were allowed to fly over Chelsea Bridge.

His subsequent interventions found him defending tradition and individuality. Man, he observed, was not created equal and there was



opposed changes to the ceremony of introduction to the Lords. Already, he noted, we had tampered with the Bible, the Prayer Book and the Church of England service — "with not very good results".

The devolution legislation of the 1970s, though he did not oppose it, troubled him greatly and his speech became a lament for a dissipated patrimony. "We are no longer a wealthy country, yet we squander our money as if there were no end to it. We are no longer a self-supporting country, yet we allow our industries to be brought to a halt. We used to be a traditional country; but the powers that be see fit to do away with county boundaries... Soon we may be in danger of splitting ourselves in two, like the atom."

His final contribution, in 1993 during a debate on the health control of imported livestock, was a question: "My lords, can my noble friend please tell me what is the warble fly?"

Lord Kinnauld will be remembered as a kindly, modest and rather shy man. Apart from the affairs of his estate, his chief private interest was in art and antiques. He was particularly fond of French 19th-century paintings.

His first marriage to Nadia Fortington, in 1938, was dissolved in 1940. He is survived by Lady Kinnauld (Diana Copeman), whom he married in 1940, and by their four daughters. In 1951 his only son died of an illness at the age of four.

PERSONAL COLUMN

OVERSEAS TRAVEL
PORTUGAL & Cape Verde. All areas. Visa/Passports, hotels, transfers, car hire, flights. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

WINTER SPORTS
ANY day for any number of people. Ski, snowboard, ice skating, curling, etc. All winter sports. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

FLATSHARE
RAYMAYNE London's foremost. Since 1970. Professional. Cheap. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

DOMESTIC & CATERING SITUATIONS WANTED
ALL PART time for 2 children, 2-9 yrs. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

FLIGHTS DIRECTORY
AFRICA SPECIALS. Lowest fares. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

FLIGHTS
CHECKIN. For more flights and fares. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

FLIGHTS
CONNECTIONS on flights & hotels. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

FLIGHTS
All European & worldwide flights. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

ANNOUNCEMENTS
SALIS BROWN please contact. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

A HOME FOR LIFE
We help people of all ages. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

CHEAPEST PRICES WORLDWIDE
Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

LEGAL NOTICES
TRUCK FINANCING PLC. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

LEGAL NOTICES
KENT. CONTRACT HIRE. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

THE RAF RISES TO THE CHALLENGE
From 1918 the Fund has been helping RAF members, their widows and children. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

COURT & SOCIAL
FORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

LEGAL NOTICES
NOTICE TO CREDITORS. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

THE ORDEAL OF MADRID
THIRTY MONTHS BESIEGED. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

ON THIS DAY
March 6, 1939. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

ON THIS DAY
March 6, 1939. Specialist agents. APTA 11632.

Bargains of the week — from an exotic beachside holiday in Malaysia to a shopping festival in Dubai

FLIGHTS

BUSINESS-CLASS flights to Australia with Malaysia Airlines cost £1,900 through Flight Bookers. The deal is valid all year, if you book by March 31. Details: 0171-757 2468.

TRAILFINDERS has a £385 spring special fare to Johannesburg flying Sabena. The deal is valid until May 24, excluding Easter. Details: 0171-938 3939.

AIR UK has winter-saver fares of £99 return to Copenhagen, Frankfurt, Hamburg, Munich and Zurich. Milan is priced at £125 and Florence at £139. Details: 0345 666777.

VIRGIN ATLANTIC flights to New York, Boston or Washington cost £215 (including tax) if bought before tomorrow. Depart by March 20. Details from Air Tickets Direct 0990 320321.

EASTER departures to Toronto from Gatwick, Manchester and Glasgow cost £199 return, on selected dates. Details from the charter operator Globespan: 0990 561522.

HOLIDAYS

CRESTA Holidays is making two-centre deals to Italy more affordable by offering free domestic flights between six leading cities. Two nights in Rome and two in Milan this spring cost £413 a person, using Alitalia flights and B&B hotel accommodation. Details: 0990 561814.

CITY BREAKS before Easter are available at special prices from American Express Travel Service. Two-night breaks and return flights to Dublin cost £159 a person and to Venice £177. Prague for three nights costs £255. Details: 0345 700400.

NORWAY for a week for £299 a person with a flight from Gatwick on March 16 is on offer from Advantage Travel Centres and includes B&B. Details: 0990 881888.

THE Malaysia Experience is offering Pangkor Laut beach resort holidays from April 1 to June 15 from £599 a person, including return flights from Heathrow and seven nights' accommodation. Details: 0181-424 9548.

DUBAI's shopping festival will be a main attraction on short breaks to the Gulf available from April 10 with Kuoni and costing £289 a person, including return flights and three nights' accommodation. Details: 01306 743000.

LATE-SEASON skiing in Meribel is on offer from £999 a person from April 13 for a week with Meraki. Price includes return flights and chalet accommodation. Details: 01451 844788.

TURKEY for a week, at a saving of £110 a person, is available from Tapestry Holidays. The flight, from Gatwick on May 4, includes B&B at a hotel with private beach on Turunc Bay. Price £199. Details: 0181-742 0055.

TWO CHILDREN go for the price of one on any 1997 United Vacations holiday booked this month. The offer will save families at least £300. A week's fly-drive holiday in Florida in August will cost £619 an adult. The first child costs £389 and the second goes free. Details: 0181-313 0999.



Bali for ten nights at the Dynasty Hotel is available for £755 a person from Airline Network and includes return BA flights. Details: 01772 727757

HOTELS

WIN a chance of two nights at the Old Course Hotel, St Andrews, during the Millennium Open golf championship in July, 2000 by staying on the hotel's "not just for golfers" weekend break this month, priced £99 per room. Details: 01334 474371.

LA CHENEVIÈRE, a French chateau-style hotel in Normandy, is offering three four and six-day cooking courses from its resident chef. Cost is from £245 a person, based on double occupancy, and includes food and drink. Details: 00 332 3152255.

AN early spring offer is available from more than 40 Quality Hotels and Comfort Inns until the end of March. Average cost is £29.75 a person, based on double occupancy, and including dinner. Details: 0800 444444.

HILTON UK has weekend breaks with prices starting from £96 a person for three nights and including discounts on local attractions. Details: 0800 856 8000.

STAY two nights over

Easter at the Spread Eagle Hotel, Midhurst, Sussex, and get a third night free. Price is from £55 a person a night including dinner and based on double occupancy. Details: 017 30 816911.

THE Mayfair Inter-Continental Hotel in central London has relaunched its restaurant under the name Opus 70 with a two-course lunch menu at £16 per head. Details: 0171-344 7070.

SEVEN nights for the price of six are available at the Long Bay Hotel, in Antigua, a family-run hotel set on a private estate on the island. Cost, for departures during April and May through CV Travel, is £1,039 a person including flights, transfers and meals. Details: 0171-581 0851.

A 20 per cent post-Easter discount is available from Rookery Hall, at Nantwich, Cheshire, from Easter Day until April 3. Dinner, bed and breakfast is reduced from £80 a person a night, based on double occupancy, to £64. Details: 01270 610016.

FERRIES

IRISH FERRIES has a 48-hour special fare from Holyhead to Dublin of £124. Equivalent to a third off standard fares of £186, the offer applies before March 26. Details: 0345 171717.

P&O FERRIES is offering 24-hour returns on Dover-Calais as well as day trips. A 24-hour ticket costs £19 a car and £4 a passenger. Day trips cost £15 a car and £1 for each passenger (both carry £10 supplements for Saturday and Bank Holiday travel) until June 30. Details: 0990 980980.

STENA Line starts operation of its Lynx fast ferry on the Fishguard-Rosslare route on March 10 and is offering 600 passengers day trips for £8 return. A conventional ferry also operates the route. Details: 0990 767676.

MOTHERING SUNDAY aboard a ferry to Denmark is offered by Scandinavian Seaways with a minibreak departure from Harwich on March 8. The package, from £79, includes two nights on board and a third on ship or in an Esbjerg hotel. Details: 0990 333111.

CHECK-IN

USAirtours plc

Low season return fares from London (ex. taxes)

ATLANTA	£245	NEW ORLEANS	£265	LONDON	0181 559 7725
BALTIMORE	£235	ORLANDO	£239	MANCHESTER	0161 456 2515
BOSTON	£195	PHILADELPHIA	£235	GLASGOW	0141 248 4844
CHICAGO	£255	PHOENIX	£265	BIRMINGHAM	0121 585 7775
DALLAS	£255	SALT LAKE CITY	£275	CARDIFF	01222 377 091
DENVER	£269	SAN FRANCISCO	£269		
DETROIT	£285	SARASOTA	£285		
FORT LAUDERDALE	£285	SEATTLE	£285		
FORT MYERS	£285	TAMPA	£285		
HOUSTON	£285	WASHINGTON	£195		
LAS VEGAS	£285	TORONTO	£235		
LOS ANGELES	£289	VANCOUVER	£335		
MIAMI	£225				
MINNEAPOLIS	£255				
NEW YORK	£179				

SEE TV'S TELETEXT P.272 FOR MORE GREAT OFFERS

We use the world's best airlines including Virgin, British Airways, American, United, Northwest and Delta

ABTA 98047 ATOL 63085

For all your travel needs to Orlando, Florida

ORLANDO HOTLINE 0181 559 7766

OPEN SUNDAY

Budget LEISURE CARS

Worldwide Car Rental within your Budget

USA	£79
SPAIN	£79
CANADA	£135
FRANCE	£179
ITALY	£199
S. AFRICA	£219

Call us today! 01923 850085

STA TRAVEL

WORLD LEADERS IN YOUNG INDEPENDENT TRAVEL

Paris	£40	New York	£155	Vancouver	£207	Mexico	£289
Amsterdam	£56	Boston	£158	London	£158	Nairobi	£316
Dublin	£58	Chicago	£199	Singapore	£414	Johannesburg	£309
Geneva	£56	Los Angeles	£211	Hong Kong	£469	Auckland	£355
Athens	£126	San Francisco	£211	Tokyo	£540	Sydney	£389

SPRING ROUND THE WORLD! London-Bangkok-Tokyo-Singapore-Perth-Sydney-Dubai-Los Angeles-London from £658

EUROPE: 0171 361 6161, WORLDWIDE: 0171 361 6262, EUROSTAR: 0171 361 6143

ACCOMMODATION • CAR HIRE • INSURANCE AND OVERLAND TOURS: 0171 361 6189

117 Euston Road NW1, 86 Old Roper Street SE1, 11 Goudge St W1, London

STA TRAVEL INFORMATION REQUEST LINE: 0171 361 6160

LONDON, MANCHESTER, GLASGOW, LEEDS, NEWCASTLE, OXFORD, CAMBRIDGE, BRISTOL, BIRMINGHAM • STA TRAVEL

MAJOR USA

Prices from

CALIFORNIA	£216
DENVER	£255
NEW YORK	£169
BOSTON	£170
FLORIDA	£187
CAROLINAS	£180

Airport taxes not inc.

MAJOR TRAVEL offer great value on low cost flights to all destinations in the USA, with the leading scheduled airlines.

Car hire, hotels and tours available.

RESERVATIONS 0171 485 7017

PETIT'S PRIX AIR FRANCE

LONDON - FRANKFURT £105

LONDON - COPENHAGEN £129

LONDON - ATHENS £199

EDINBURGH - VIENNA £239

BIRMINGHAM - ZURICH £163

All fares listed are subject to availability and differing booking and travel periods. Passenger taxes apply. For full details of conditions and more Petits Prix to many other European and worldwide destinations contact your Travel Agent or call Air France on 0181 742 6600

EMBASSY FLIGHT CENTRE

Alcantara £229 U.S.A. £165

Paris £159 London £159

Manchester £159 Glasgow £159

Birmingham £159 Cardiff £159

Edinburgh £159

01273 700737

ICARUS FLIGHTS

01476 514666

ICARUS TRAVEL LTD

TRAILFINDERS

THE TRAVEL EXPERTS

More than just low cost flights worldwide

WITH UP TO 65% DISCOUNT ON HOTELS & CAR HIRE

Call Trailfinders for the complete tailor-made travel service

LONDON Longhaul: 0171-938 3939

Transatlantic & European: 0171-937 5400

First & Business Class: 0171-938 3444

BIRMINGHAM Worldwide: 0121-236 1234

BRISTOL Worldwide: 0117-929 9000

GLASGOW Worldwide: 0141-353 2224

MANCHESTER Worldwide: 0161-839 6969

First & Business Class: 0161-839 3434

Why pay up to £45 for two weeks' travel insurance when you can pay £59 for a year's?

With our annual travel insurance you can take an unlimited number of trips in Europe from £59. And anywhere in the world from just £59. So, to save money call the number below quoting reference TS.

0800 700 737

AIRLINK

0171-715-7770

FLIGHT WORLD

NEW YORK £145 FLORIDA £199

JORDAN £39 CAPE TOWN £40

INDIA £29 BANGKOK £35

BOMBAY £39 THAI £39

LAOS £39 MALAYSIA £39

PHILIPPINES £39 SINGAPORE £39

THAILAND £39 HONG KONG £39

0181 795 3335

JETWORLD

CHEAPEST PRICES AVAILABLE

SPAIN £59 GERMANY £79

FRANCE £79 USA £119

ITALY £79 CANADA £119

01273 730930

JETLINE

0171 301 1111

Who in the world do you turn to when you need to fly?

Tel: 0990 561 532

benz

NEW YORK £160

HONG KONG £440

AMSTERDAM £49 JORDAN £135

DUBAI £298 LONDON £135

BEIJING £298 JAPAN £135

FRANKFURT £298 MALAYSIA £135

BANGKOK £211 HONG KONG £135

YOKOHAMA £211 OSAKA £135

LOW SEASON PRICES

0171 439 4181

TRAVEL INSURANCE

£10 OFF every policy sold

01243 787835

JUST AMERICA

For the widest choice of escorted coach and self-drive tours, motorhomes, Florida, Bahamas and Caribbean Holidays call Just America. Specialists in tailor-made quality holidays to North America.

Tauk Tours

Motorhomes

01730 266588

interEUROPE TRAVEL

0171 625 7660

EUROPEAN/WORLDWIDE FLIGHTS

0171 625 7660

CAPITAL FLIGHTS

0171 209 4000

SUNDIAL TRAVEL

01276 686808

NOW GIVE US A CALL

0171 402 4044

easyJet

Call 01582 44 55 55 anytime

easyJet

Call 01582 44 55 55 anytime

USA & CANADA 0171 460 2255

FLIGHT CENTRE

0181 669 8607

WORLDWIDE

0990 133 343

BELFAST £65 RTN

You'd have to look hard to find a smaller fare.

AMSTERDAM	from £69 return
BERGEN	from £145 return
BRUSSELS	from £76 return
DUBLIN	from £89 return
EDINBURGH	from £62 return
FRANKFURT	from £125 return
GLASGOW	from £62 return
LEEDS BRADFORD	from £83 return
NICE	from £149 return
PALMA	from £119 return
PARIS	from £75 return
PRAGUE	from £164 return
TESSIDE	from £93 return
ZURICH	from £99 return

Contact your local travel agent or call for details on 0345 554554 OR 0345 1 FLY BM

British Midland The Airline for Europe

6.35 am Sunrise London 5.50 pm to 6.23 am
5.50 pm Bristol 5.58 pm to 6.42 am
Moon sets Moon rises Edinburgh 5.58 pm to 6.48 am
2.43 pm 4.51 am Manchester 5.56 pm to 6.43 am
moon March 9 Penzance 6.12 pm to 8.53 am

THE TIMES

2

25

7

INSIDE SECTION

2 TODAY



ARTS

Tom Cruise makes his bid for an Oscar
PAGES 35-37



ANTIQUES

Ten years of the Maastricht Fine Art Fair
PAGES 40, 41



SPORT

Hill keeps eyes on the road ahead
PAGES 43-48

TELEVISION AND RADIO

PAGES 46, 47

THURSDAY MARCH 6 1997

BAT to consider settling lawsuits in US

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BAT Industries is ready to consider a possible settlement of the multimillion-dollar tobacco lawsuits it faces in America.

Martin Broughton, chief executive, said: "The on-going cost in legal terms and the impact on the share price is such that we think it sensible and appropriate to evaluate a settlement." He put the legal costs at \$100 million in 1996, saying that these could rise in the next two years.

A sensible settlement would be one that covered all current and future claims and was approved by Congress and the White House, he said.

BAT also appears to have altered its stance on a possible merger of its tobacco and financial services interests.

Lord Cairns, chairman, said: "We are not wedded to the structure we have at the moment because it is the structure we have inherited. We have an open mind. If the results are better for the shareholders and move the business forward, we will do it."

Some analysts had hoped BAT would announce yesterday that it was seeking an industry-wide settlement of anti-smoking litigation after a series of court cases in the US.

Mr Broughton said he would be willing to consider proposals for a settlement to cut off the possibility of any future claims, but he did not intend to set out terms for BAT or for the industry as a whole.

BAT shares fell 19.5p to 530p, which analysts blamed on profit-taking and City disappointment over year-end profits. Pre-tax profit for the 12 months to December was £2,495 billion (£2,384 billion). This included a charge of £160 million as provision for the costs of environmental claims in the US against Eagle Star, one of BAT's insurance companies.

The underlying profit from continuing operations increased 7 per cent. Lord Cairns said it had been a difficult year for the insurance business and overseas earnings had been affected by the strength of sterling to the tune of £30 million. Earnings per share grew 2 per cent to 48.6p. The dividend is up 2p to 26p.

BAT's tobacco businesses produced a 7 per cent overall improvement in local currency, with trading profit rising to £1.6 billion. Financial services grew by an underlying 8 per cent to £1.2 billion.

Lord Cairns declined to comment on speculation that BAT had tried to tempt Commercial Union, the composite insurer, into a merger with Allied Dunbar and Eagle Star.

BAT is concerned that continuing litigation has kept down the share price. Analysts believe that the stock could be worth 700p if a settlement were reached.

Mr Broughton said: "The on-going cost in legal terms and the impact on the share price is such that we think it sensible and appropriate to evaluate a settlement."

Pennington, page 27



Lord Cairns, chairman, said it had been a difficult year for the insurance business and overseas earnings had been affected by the strength of sterling to the tune of £30 million

Life firms welcome pensions proposals

By MARIANNE CURPHEY, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

LIFE companies and investment managers have welcomed proposals to privatise pensions, saying the move could boost their annual premium income by hundreds of billions of pounds every year.

Their enthusiasm was, however, tempered by warnings that no company would be willing to run a new scheme unless products were simple and cheap to administer.

Privatised pensions are likely to be run by a select group of preferred providers approved and regulated by the Personal Investment Authority (PIA).

Competition for inclusion will be fierce in an industry that is cut-throat, and many casualties are expected. Total pension provision in the UK is already worth £600 billion. Unsuccessful companies might include small life insurers with high expense ratios.

The beneficiaries of a low-cost, mass-market product will be big mutual life companies, unit trust and fund

managers and direct insurance companies, all of which will be able to cope with administering tens of thousands of policy documents with minimum expense.

Standard Life, one of Europe's largest insurers, could be among the successful bidders for business. Andrew Black, marketing manager, said: "There will be big winners and big losers, and the losers are likely to disappear in an industry which is already consolidating."

Andrew Warwick-Thompson, of Bacon & Woodrow, who tracks the performance of pension providers, said: "The market will be worth many billions, and the big fund managers will be serious about breaking into the market."

He predicts powerful fund managers and unit trust providers such as Schroders, Mercury Asset Management and Gartmore will in future poach market share from traditional life companies. Clive Boothman, director of

Schroder Unit Trusts, said: "We are certainly interested in providing investment links for pensions. Companies will need a very efficient administrative system to deal with tens of thousands of small amounts of money from employees and employers. The onus is on the Government to make products simple, so that costs can be kept down to a 1 per cent management fee."

New entrants selling pensions by telephone also see the proposals as an opportunity. Tony Wood, marketing director of Virgin Direct, described the proposals as "very exciting". He said: "This is a great opportunity, but also a major responsibility."

Liberty International Pensions, which has a new direct pension product, voiced concerns over how the Government scheme would be regulated. Marc Hommel, director, said: "Policing the scheme will be very important. This is a challenge and an opportunity for the industry and presents a threat to some of the traditional providers which have high costs."

The Confederation of British Industry said its review, to be concluded by the autumn, would be looking at the main alternative proposals for change, including those set out by the Government.

The TUC and the GMB union gave warning that a new pensions scandal could be imminent. John Monks, TUC General Secretary, said: "The greatest financial scandal of modern times has been the mis-selling of personal pensions and the failure of the guilty companies to provide prompt and full compensation. Yet the Government wants to reward them with more business and more opportunities to rip off customers."

E175-per-week plan, page 1
Details, page 8
Peter Riddell, page 8
Chilean model, page 9
Pennington, page 27
Graham Searjeant, page 29

Ex-Barings chief sues for £350,000

By ROBERT MILLER, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

A FORMER head of corporate finance of ING Barings is suing his previous employer for a bonus payment worth at least £350,000.

A High Court writ lodged in London by Richard Orders, who joined Barings in September 1976, said he took up an appointment as head of corporate finance for the Asia region in April 1994 and was released to Hong Kong. After the £830 million crash of Barings two years ago and its subsequent rescue by ING, of The Netherlands, Mr Orders kept his position.

In his writ, lodged by Cameron Markby Hewitt, the City law firm, Mr Orders said he had received a letter on March 17, 1995, thanking him for his contribution and informing him that he had been awarded a £175,000 bonus.

Mr Orders's writ alleges that in December 1995, without warning, he was told that

David Hudson had been appointed to replace him and that he should return to London as director of the UK/European corporate finance department.

However, it became apparent that a key piece of business from the Swire Pacific Group would not be obtained unless Mr Orders was involved. The writ says that it was agreed that the former ING Barings executive would stay in Hong Kong until no later than March 1996 and that he would be paid a cash bonus of £350,000. Further, he was told by letter he would be paid a cash bonus of 10 per cent of revenues earned from various deals including Swire Pacific and Cable and Wireless. Mr Orders resigned from Barings in July 1996.

Last year, Mary Walz, a former Barings executive, sued the bank unsuccessfully for an unpaid £500,000 bonus.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDEXES

FTSE 100	4380.1	(+2.4)
Yield	3.67%	
FTSE All share	2128.32	(+1.94)
Nikkei	18273.51	(-291.27)
New York		
Dow Jones	6890.82	(+38.10)
S&P Composite	795.78	(+4.81)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	5.67%	(5.67%)
Yield	5.67%	(5.67%)

LONDON MONEY

3-month Interbank	6.75%	(6.75%)
12-month Interbank	11.11%	(11.11%)

STERLING

New York	1.6113*	(1.6140)
London	1.6098	(1.6172)
DM	5.7010*	(5.7785)
FF	5.2535	(5.3294)
Sfr	2.3835	(2.3881)
Yen	195.42	(197.01)
£ Index	95.1	(95.2)

US \$

London	1.1728*	(1.7125)
FF	5.7010*	(5.7785)
Sfr	1.4810*	(1.4885)
Yen	121.58*	(122.15)
£ Index	104.1	(104.1)

Tokyo close Yen 121.65

London	1.1728*	(1.7125)
FF	5.7010*	(5.7785)
Sfr	1.4810*	(1.4885)
Yen	121.58*	(122.15)
£ Index	104.1	(104.1)

MONTHLY SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	\$19.00 (\$19.15)
--------------------	-------------------

GOLD

London close	\$352.00 (\$358.80)
* denotes midday trading price	

Taste

Cadbury Schweppes, the confectionery group, is showing the strongest signs yet that it is looking to make a substantial acquisition, saying it could afford to spend £2 billion.

Page 27, Tempus 28

Squeeze

BICC, the construction group, says the squeeze on government spending in Europe to fit economies for monetary union has prolonged the construction slump. Page 30

Bock severs links with Lonrho

By ERIC REGULY

DIETER BOCK announced yesterday that he is ending his relationship with Lonrho to become a director and shareholder of TrizecHahn, one of the largest office building and shopping mall companies in North America.

Mr Bock has agreed to sell all of the assets of Advanta Management, his property company, in exchange for \$147 million of TrizecHahn voting shares, equivalent to a 4 per cent equity stake. He is to become vice-chairman of TrizecHahn and president of its European operations when he retires as non-executive director and deputy chairman of Lonrho this month.

Peter Munk, chief executive of TrizecHahn, based in Toronto, said that he courted Mr Bock to help give TrizecHahn fast exposure to the European



Dieter Bock will offer his European property expertise

market. He said that Mr Bock has "five projects... which we could not possibly assemble on our own", and offers "total familiarity with the property market in Europe".

The Advanta portfolio includes Number 1 Poultry, the

commercial development in the City of London that occupies the site of the former Mappin & Webb building, and the Taschenbergpalais, the historic palace in Dresden that was rebuilt after the Second World War.

Under Mr Bock, TrizecHahn will initially concentrate on shopping mall developments in Europe, said Mr Munk.

TrizecHahn's goal, he said, is to become the "Barrick of the property industry" referring to TrizecHahn's controlling stake in Barrick, the second largest gold producer in the world. About \$1.2 billion has been set aside for European property projects.

Mr Bock stepped down as chief executive of Lonrho last year and sold his 18.3 per cent stake in the company to Anglo American Corp of South Africa. He no longer owns any Lonrho shares but has said that he might become a shareholder of Lonrho's African trading operations once they are spun off.

Tempus, page 28
Into the sunset, page 29

City star at heart of Nomura inquiry

By JON ASHWORTH AND ROBERT MILLER

ONE of the City's most successful stockbrokers could be called to give evidence in connection with a \$600 million (£290 million) share deal on the Australian Stock Exchange.

Robert Mapstone, former co-head of equities at Nomura International in London, initiated the arbitrage trade, which triggered an international investigation.

The Australian Securities Commission (ASC) is taking Nomura to court for alleged "market manipulation, misleading and deceptive conduct", and has accused Nomura of "wash trading" - trading in securities in which it

was both buyer and seller. The ASC said to be under political pressure to improve a poor prosecution record, began proceedings in the Federal Court last week. The case is based on the events of March 29 last year, when Nomura unwound a large arbitrage position by allowing 12,844 March 1996 Share Price Index (SPI) futures contracts to expire. It simultaneously ordered the sale of \$600 million of securities.

The transaction was initiated by Mr Mapstone in London, and carried out by Duncan Moss, a Nomura trader in Hong Kong. The sell order triggered a 25-point fall in the stock market index.

At the time, Mr Mapstone said the trades were "a normal piece of business", and said: "We do it in markets all around the world, but we always act within the rules."

There is no suggestion that Mr Mapstone profited improperly from the transaction. It occurred shortly before the benchmarking of Nomura's annual bonuses. The Bank of England, which has been kept informed of events, this week warned the market that bonus targets could encourage traders to take undue risks.

Mr Mapstone, who left Nomura last July, is said to have taken an extended holiday in South Africa, and was

unavailable for comment. A keen rugby player, he was recruited to shake-up Nomura's London equity division, but left after just two years following a disagreement over strategy.

The former Nomura executive was regarded in City circles as "very successful", and as such would have enjoyed handsome bonuses.

The Securities and Futures Authority (SFA), the watchdog for brokers and futures dealers in the UK, is understood to be keeping a watching brief, and has supplied detailed information to the ASC.

Nomura declined to comment.

James Capel Investment Management Charity Specialists

We offer segregated fund management for charities with assets in excess of £200,000. You can be assured of a personal, professional, competitively priced service offered by specialists who already look after £700 million on behalf of over 250 leading charities.

For further information, please contact:
George Lynne
James Capel Investment Management
6 Bevis Marks, London, EC3A 7JQ.
Telephone: 0171-626 0566 Facsimile: 0171-283 3187

James Capel Investment Management

James Capel Investment Management is a trading name of HSBC Investment Bank plc. Regulated by SFA and a member of the London Stock Exchange.

Member HSBC Group

Loss-making T&N to cut 1,400 jobs worldwide

By CARL MORTISHED

T&N, the UK automotive components company, yesterday announced 1,400 job cuts worldwide as it reported year-end losses of £388 million before tax for 1996.

The losses, which compared with profits of £120 million in 1995, arise from a £515 million provision and insurance premium aimed at ring-fencing future liability to asbestos injury claims.

The job losses, mainly in continental Europe, will cost £25 million and are at the centre of a further restructuring at T&N, which is suffering from weakness in the European vehicle markets.

Competitive pressures in piston and friction products cut T&N's operating margins from 11 per cent to 9 per cent last year. Before exceptional charges and asbestos provisions, operating profit from continuing businesses fell £31 million to £173 million. The company blamed half of the decline on destocking and redundancy costs.

T&N may be on the verge of securing a strategic position in the world's piston market



Sir Colin Hope, T&N chairman, considering a joint venture with a German firm

following a German industrial group's purchase of a 24.9 per cent stake in Kolbenschmidt, the piston-maker courted by T&N, which sees Kolbenschmidt as the key to its bid for leadership in pistons.

The share purchase by Rheinmetall was treated as positive yesterday by T&N's management, which is expecting a court ruling soon that

will permit it to exercise an option over a separate 24.9 per cent stake in Kolbenschmidt.

Sir Colin Hope, chairman of T&N, said that Rheinmetall was one of the companies that T&N had been talking to in a bid to resolve the problem over the future of Kolbenschmidt. He said that he would not exclude a joint venture. However, Rheinmetall said yesterday

that it was seeking a majority interest in Kolbenschmidt.

T&N's 1996 losses wiped out distributable reserves and the company has effected a capital reduction to eliminate the deficit on its profit and loss account. As a result, T&N will pay a special interim dividend of 3p in May in lieu of the 1996 final dividend.

Tempus, page 28

Houses gain 0.5% in February

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

HOUSE prices recovered from the slight downturn in January to give a seasonally adjusted rise of 0.5 per cent last month, according to the Halifax Building Society.

The Halifax said that the latest figure confirmed that the January fall was a one-off adjustment after big rises in the last quarter of 1996.

However, on an annual basis, house price inflation has slowed from 7.1 per cent to 6.8 per cent. With the quarterly trend showing 1.7 per cent growth in prices, Halifax said, the housing market was recovering at a moderate pace and was within its end-of-year forecast of 7 per cent.

Prices for first-time buyers rose sharply, by 2.1 per cent, offsetting a 2 per cent fall in January. First-time buyers are now paying £48,168, on average, 5 per cent up on a year ago, against a £66,612 seasonally adjusted price for all houses.

New houses fetch £71,757 on average, nearly £6,000 more than existing homes. However, price rises here continue to lag the main market, with figures showing an annual rise of 5.3 per cent and a quarterly trend of 0.8 per cent.

CWS denial exerts more pressure on Lanica Trust

By ALASDAIR MURRAY

PRESSURE mounted on Lanica Trust to clarify its position to the Stock Exchange after the Co-operative Wholesale Society denied it was in talks with the investment company about the sale of some of its assets.

The CWS made the statement through the Stock Exchange after a board meeting. The co-operative said that it had not entered into discussions with Lanica and that it has "no intention of doing so". Lanica is locked in talks

with the Stock Exchange over market rumours about possible acquisitions, which led to a jump in its share price from 150p in October to £19.50 when the shares were suspended a month ago.

With no deals imminent at Lanica, the shares are likely to plummet when the company is relisted, although a date for a return to the market has yet to be finalised. Lanica's only business asset is a specialised mail order business valued substantially below the com-

pany's £100 million market capitalisation.

The jump in the share price began after Andrew Regan, chief executive, took over New Guernsey Securities Trust, an offshore investment trust. Mr Regan said he was aiming to turn the trust, which was renamed as Lanica, into an industrial holding company.

Market rumours linked Lanica with a reverse takeover by Littlewoods' retail businesses — which Littlewoods later denied — as well as with CWS.

Bank signals 6% rate

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS EDITOR

THE Bank of England signalled that base rates remain at 6 per cent after yesterday's monetary meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and Eddie George, Governor of the Bank.

There was little surprise when the Bank dealt at unchanged rates in its normal daily money market operations. In a poll of 20

economists by Reuters earlier this week, not one had expected base rates to be raised.

The Bank has been pressing for base rate to be increased by a quarter point for some months, arguing that, without this move, the Government will miss its inflation target in two years' time.

The Chancellor has made it equally clear that he sees no need for a rise in rates given

sterling's strength and a run of excellent figures for costs and prices in industry.

The news that rates were left unchanged had little impact on the markets, although the pound dropped back from Monday's peaks on profit-taking.

Sterling's effective index against a basket of currencies finished at 98.1 compared with 98.5 on Monday.



A STRONG YEAR OF GROWTH AND DEVELOPMENT

"Cadbury Schweppes produced record turnover, profits, margins and earnings and generated £137m free cash in 1996 against a background of organic expansion and acquisition."

1996 RESULTS

	1996 £m	1995 £m	% Change
Sales	5,115	4,776	+ 7
Trading Profit	671	600	+12
Pre-Tax Profit	592	511	+16
Underlying Free Cash Flow	137	100	+37
	Pence	Pence	
Earnings per Share (FRS 3)	34.1	31.3	+ 9
Underlying EPS*	34.1	29.9	+14
Dividend per Share	17.0	16.0	+ 6

A final dividend of 11.8p is proposed which, with the interim of 5.2p already paid, makes a total of 17p per share for the year.

*Excluding disposal profits in 1995 of £15 million (£14 million after tax).

We are a truly global business operating in growth markets all around the world. In the US, Dr Pepper continues to outperform the soft drinks market and it is being launched internationally into new markets such as Mexico, Australia and Russia.

1996 saw outstanding performances by our core confectionery companies with product innovation the key to growth in most of our major markets.

At this early stage in the year we are confident of further growth and success in 1997 despite the impact of the stronger pound."

Dominic Cadbury
Dominic Cadbury, Chairman

Cadbury Schweppes

MANAGEMENT PROVEN IN THE MARKETPLACE

BUSINESS HIGHLIGHTS

Former regulator to join board of CWC

SIR BRYAN CARSBURG, the former Director-General of Fair Trading and the first Director-General of Communications, is joining the board of Cable and Wireless Communications (CWC), one of British Telecom's main competitors, as a non-executive director. Sir Bryan, 58, now secretary-general of the International Accounting Standards Committee, becomes one of three non-executive directors. The others are Valerie Gooding, managing director of Bupa, and John Keenan, chief executive of International Distillers & Vintners and a director of Grand Metropolitan. C&W will own about 53 per cent of CWC, which will embrace Nynex and Bell CableMedia. Shareholders of Nynex and Bell CableMedia will be asked to swap their shares for shares in CWC. The flotation, expected to value the group at about £5 billion, is scheduled for late spring.

BT charges attacked

THE majority of domestic telephone users would still be better off switching from BT, in spite of its discount schemes, according to the Consumers' Association. In a report out today, it says that BT was the most expensive option and users could make up to 20 per cent savings with other companies. In its magazine *Which?*, the association said that it had analysed hundreds of millions of BT calls and samples of itemised billing from Telewest, the cable company. *Which?* said 95 per cent of people who had left BT did not regret the move.

Revenue 'under cloud'

A QUARTER of finance directors have lost faith in the Inland Revenue in the wake of the recent trial of Michael Alcock, the tax investigator jailed for taking bribes, according to a survey by *Accountancy Age* and Reed Accountancy Personnel. The 200 finance chiefs said the affair was a "poor reflection of the Revenue's management control". The survey found a quarter also believed Alcock was "unlikely to be an isolated incident". However, 54 per cent of those polled said that Alcock had not weakened their faith in the system.

Compass stake cut

ACCOR, the French hotels company, is cutting its stake in Compass Group, the UK catering company, to 10 per cent from 21.5 per cent. Accor acquired the shares after it sold Eurest, a catering business, to Compass in September 1995. It has agreed not to sell further shares for at least 12 months. Compass shares fell 27½p to 71½p on news of the disposal. Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, the merchant bank, is co-ordinating the placing of shares with institutional investors.

Raids by City police

CITY OF LONDON Police have raided 11 homes in London in a two-day operation. The early morning raids, concluded yesterday, were conducted by members of the City police's financial investigation unit. Search warrants were obtained under the Drug Trafficking Act in relation to alleged money laundering offences. One man has been detained for questioning and papers and files relating to financial matters and deals were seized in the raids. Further arrests are expected.

Boost for consultancy

ANDERSEN CONSULTING, the management and technology consultancy, lifted net revenues 26 per cent to \$5.3 billion, it reported yesterday. The company, which lists more than half the *Fortune* Global 500 companies as clients, said a business region that embraces Europe, the Middle East, Africa and India lifted revenues 32 per cent to \$1.9 billion. Asia/Pacific revenues rose 21 per cent to \$509 million while the Americas rose 22 per cent to \$2.9 billion.

Warning by Ronson

RONSON, the lighters and accessories producer, gave warning that it expects to incur a £1 million pre-tax loss for 1996, against a profit of £4.02 million in 1995. It said it had only succeeded in claiming 60 per cent of the damages ran up last year when one of its factories was damaged by fire. It also named Laurie Todd as its finance director, replacing David Moffat who resigned in November. Mr Todd was formerly finance director at Innovations Group.

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells		Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.14	1.98	Malta	0.600	0.605
Austria Sch	20.36	19.96	Netherlands Gld	3.246	3.215
Belgium Fr	50.73	55.43	New Zealand \$	2.44	2.26
Canada \$	2.512	2.182	Norway Kr	11.74	10.9
Cyprus Cyp£	0.855	0.800	Portugal Esc	267.50	268.00
Denmark Kr	11.07	10.27	S Africa Rd	7.76	6.98
Finland Mk	5.94	5.15	Spain Ptas	204.50	227.50
France Fr	9.69	9.04	Sweden Kr	12.94	12.14
Germany DM	2.91	2.70	Switzerland Fr	2.51	2.39
Greece Dr	349	223	Turkey Lira	200.00	196.000
Hong Kong \$	13.12	12.12	USA \$	1.711	1.561
Iceland	120	100			
Ireland P	1.08	1.00			
Israel Shk	5.71	5.08			
Italy Lit	207	192			
Japan Yen	210.20	194.70			

Notes for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

□ Good job prospects in computer software □ The drawbacks of money-purchase plans □ BAT must eventually make its move

Countdown to the millennium

□ NEVER mind pensions — there is only one question worrying the truly long-sighted. Which arrives first, the simultaneous crash of every computer system on the planet come the year 2000, or that huge, final asteroid?

Pessimists say there is no longer enough time to defuse the Millennium Bomb, which will throw the world back to the age of barter at the end of the century. Computer experts, however, are confident they can cope — it will just have to wait until they have sorted out the euro. Literally true: there is more money being spent in continental Europe on preparing computers for the common currency than for the millennium.

Because of the inability of old computers to cope with the change to a year with a 2 in front of it, software houses are having to go through all programs that could present a problem and edit out and correct every reference to the date. This is the equivalent of reading through a book for every mention of the word "horse", miss one, and the book is unreadable.

Some estimates say banks alone could lose a tenth of their annual profits to the cost of the millennium overhaul. Last week NatWest said that information

technology budgets were running £100 million a year ahead; a big organisation could have as many as 10,000 programs within its IT to be checked.

The situation is made worse because many of the old programs are written in an outdated language, Cobol. This has thrown up some quirks: suddenly enhanced job prospects for retired computer programmers, while the problem in Germany is less acute because the language had been in use east of the Berlin Wall.

Job prospects for all computer programmers, and software firms such as CMG and Logica are pretty good too, because of this, the euro and the explosion in telecomm, a fact reflected in share prices. The problem for the industry, because no one knows what is needed, will be pricing — fixed-cost contracts could prove expensive mistakes, but those keen for the work may opt for them anyway.

Another difficulty is assigning the blame, if the system is tested

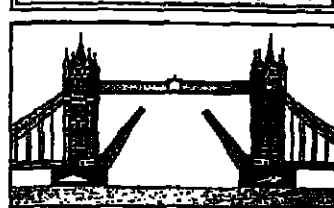
and not all those horses have been edited out. It crashes and they have to start again. Who pays extra, the original computer maker, the owner or the software house doing the work? This has required indemnity clauses limiting liability in contracts. Where there is insurance, there are lawyers. If a career in software does not appeal to an ambitious graduate, one as a lawyer specialising in IT work could be even better.

Typical that lawyers would find some way of profiting from the Millennium Bomb. They'll probably be the only ones to survive the asteroid impact too.

The pensions timebomb

□ TALKING of pensions and grim warnings, Dresner Kleinwort Benson has chosen a good day to point to what could be the next miss-selling scandal, the growing switch to money-purchase plans or defined contribu-

PENNINGTON



tions. The shift from traditional final-salary schemes, whereby employers promise to pay an eventual fixed proportion of employees' salaries, to such plans has been accelerating over the past five years, and it is making many observers uneasy.

In a traditional pension, any shortfall in the sum promised must be made up by employers, which leaves their risk uncapped. By contrast, money-purchase plans throw the responsibility firmly on the employee. If the investment performance of his or her pension fails to keep pace, then hard luck. All very well in these times of

self-reliance, but large numbers of people may not be competent to look after their own pensions, patronising though it may seem to suggest it. This is why final-salary schemes have always put the onus on their employers.

Three facts. Firms running traditional schemes have enjoyed pensions holidays in recent years, but these are coming to an end and contributions are starting to climb again. Secondly, a pensions industry survey shows the average employer chipping in 5.6 per cent of pensionable earnings to money-purchase schemes and 13.3 per cent to the traditional kind. Clearly, the new schemes are the cheaper option. Finally, the Association of Consulting Actuaries says that after 25 years, members of money-purchase schemes can expect only half the benefits of a final-salary pensioner.

And one possible future: a third of pensioners with no private means, relying on negligible state benefits or begging to get along. Another third with

less than they had expected, and the final third with enough — before taxes. Makes you glad to be alive, doesn't it?

Interpreting the smoke signals

□ THERE were some confusing smoke signals rising from BAT Industries yesterday. Was the group about to split in two, or settle with the health authorities in the US? Either would be good for a couple of quid on the share price, but BAT's shares ended the day lower.

BAT has made it clear for a while that a once-and-for-all settlement with the various US state litigants, and one requiring legislation, would be welcomed at the right price. But it is not for the tobacco industry to take the initiative on such a deal. Martin Broughton, the chief executive, was prepared to countenance a deal in 12 to 18 months, though, which shows some optimism. As to demerger, Hanson and

Thorn EMI have shown that this is not enough on its own. Farmers, the US insurer, may be within a whisker of ousting US tobacco as the main profit earner, but prospects for financial services in the UK are mixed. Any split is likely to be linked with one of the big composite insurers, say, For now, BAT shares still sell on ten times this year's earnings. Some sort of move on either front will come eventually, and when it does, look for an immediate rerating.

Dropping the pilot

□ TAKEOVER battles between investment trusts, although horribly technical for most mortals, throw up the odd bit of fun. The independent directors of Pilot, under £47 million assault from Colin McLean's Undervalued Assets Trust, are furious that the Bank of England Pension Fund has rushed to accept the offer. Mr McLean is widely expected to break up the underperforming fund if he succeeds, which will put a few strategic stakes in small companies on the market and a few heads on the block. So much for the Bank's views on long-term investment. Remember: don't do as I do, do as I say.

Cadbury Schweppes ready to spend £2bn

By FRASER NELSON

CADBURY SCHWEPES, the confectionery and soft drinks group, yesterday delivered the strongest signs yet that it is looking to make a substantial acquisition, saying it could afford to spend £2 billion if an opportunity arose.

The company, which last month received £623 million after selling its stake in its joint distribution venture to Coca-Cola, said it was more likely to bolster its confectionery arm with the new money. It returned a 13 per cent rise in pre-tax profit to £592 million for 1996, with cashflow rising 10 per cent to £369 million. It said it had a strong balance sheet and was prepared to divest

other businesses if it considered any to have reached the height of earnings potential.

Cadbury shares rose 19p to 529p yesterday. John Sunderland, chief executive, said the company was committed to enhancing shareholder value. He said the company was aligning management's interests more closely with shareholders by switching to an incentive plan based on total shareholder return.

While he refused to say that its past share issues had detracted from shareholder value, he agreed that the company now "acknowledged the cost of equity capital". If it did agree a big acquisition, it

would only issue more shares as a last resort.

Dominic Cadbury, chairman, said: "We have for quite a long time now focused on earnings per share as our criterion by which we judge ourselves. We're saying there is a more appropriate measure." Earnings rose 14 per cent on an underlying basis, to 34.1p. The total dividend is increased 6 per cent to 17p a share. A final 11.8p is due on May 23.

Cadbury attributed the results to strong performances from both confectionery and soft drinks, after a full year's results from Dr Pepper and 7-Up against a ten-month con-

tribution last time. It played down fears that its soft drinks in the US was suffering from renewed attacks from Coke and Pepsi. Dr Pepper achieved volume growth of 4 per cent, in spite of the launch of Mr Pibb, Coke's equivalent to Dr Pepper.

7-Up, which has been in decline, saw its market share slip fall to 1.9 per cent last year, and the company said that it had returned to growth in the past two months. The company also said that it was planning a relaunch of Dr Pepper, but ruled out any change of colour in the cans.

Tempos, page 28

Biotech seeks EU approval for Zacutex

BRITISH Biotech, the biotechnology company that hopes to evolve into a commercial pharmaceuticals group, has applied for regulatory approval of Zacutex, its acute pancreatitis medicine (Eric Reguly writes).

If it is approved by the European Medicines Evaluation Agency, which covers member states of the European Union, Zacutex will become British Biotech's first product on the market. The company expects to launch the drug next year; it is still undergoing trials in the United States.

British Biotech reported a pre-tax loss of £1.5 million in the three months to January 31, raising the nine-month loss to £17.6 million, against a £15 million loss previously.

Airtime sales fall hits HTV shares

By ERIC REGULY

SHARES of HTV, the ITV company serving Wales and the West of England, fell 10p to 350p yesterday after reporting disappointing airtime sales. HTV blamed the downturn on advertisers, notably phone companies, targeting their marketing in London, at the expense of the regions. In an effort to reverse the trend, it has entered into a new contract with TSMS, the advertising sales house owned by United News & Media. United owns 29.9 per cent of HTV.

Chris Rowlands, chief executive, said the new contract, unlike the previous one, sets performance targets for TSMS and penalties if it does not meet them. The goal is to raise HTV's share of the ITV companies' advertising reve-

nue to more than 6 per cent, compared with 1996's level of 5.84 per cent.

The company reported pre-tax profits of £9.9 million in the year to the end of December, against £12.1 million in 1995, on turnover of £139.3 million, up 3.2 per cent. The latest figures include exceptional charges of £2.1 million, largely from the introduction of digital technology in HTV's studios. Operating profit before exceptional charges was £12.6 million (£12.5 million).

The biggest improvements came from Harvest Entertainment, its production and rights division, whose profits rose 24 per cent to £5.6 million. A 2.75p final, due May 30, lifts the total payout 11 per cent to 4.15p.

Salvesen's chairman attacks rebels

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN criticised rebel shareholders led by Sir Gerald Elliot, his former chairman, who hope to thwart the company's plan to sell Aggreko, the power supply subsidiary, and return £150 million to shareholders (Ashley Potter writes).

Sir Alick Rankin, chairman, accused the rebels of attempting to hijack next week's vote on the takeover and turn it into a vote of no confidence in the board.

He said: "If Sir Gerald wishes to replace all or part of the current board, he should use his stated support to do so by convening an EGM." Rebels claim to speak for shareholders who control 14 per cent of the company.

UP TO 30% SAVINGS ON SONY CAMCORDERS

SONY

LIMITED STOCK

- DV Digital Video Format (DV Mini Cassette)
- 500 lines of resolution and PCM Digital stereo
- 3 CCDs for sharper colour reproduction
- 10 x Optical & 20 x Digital Variable Speed Zoom
- Lithium-ion Battery
- Super Steady Shot

MRP £3599.99 **OUR PRICE £2800.00**

SAVE £1100.00

SONY

LIMITED STOCK

- For use with all video systems (TV/Video/Camcorder)
- Compact design
- 180,000 pixel colour LCD with magnification
- Recommended projection size - up to 80 inches
- Supplied with replacement bulb, soft carry case and A/V power cable

MRP £999.99 **OUR PRICE £799.99**

SAVE £200.00

SONY

LCD

MRP £1299.99 **OUR PRICE £1099.99**

SAVE £200

SONY

LCD

MRP £999.99 **OUR PRICE £799.99**

SAVE £200

SONY

LCD

MRP £849.99 **OUR PRICE £699.99**

SAVE £150

Many more great offers in store

SHASONIC

MEGASTORE

42 TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD, LONDON W1P 9RD

TEL: 0171- 637 3549

Switch to Barclaycard and we'll write off

If you owe up to £3,000 on your credit cards and store cards you'd be better off switching to Barclaycard. Up to £150 better off. Transfer the lot to Barclaycard and we'll immediately write off 5% of the amount you owe.

You can also look forward to Barclaycard benefits such as free Travel Accident Insurance and Profiles points for every £10 you spend. No wonder Barclaycard is Britain's most popular credit card. Switching couldn't be easier. Write off for an application form and full written details or call free on 0800 49 29 29 and quote code 536CXX.

Complete the coupon or call free any time on

0800 49 29 29

YOU MUST QUOTE 536CXX WHEN YOU CALL

Send to: Barclaycard FREEPOST, BS 4335, Bristol, BS1 3YX.

I would like to reduce my credit card bill; please send me full written details and an application form.

Send to: Barclaycard FREEPOST, BS 4335, Bristol, BS1 3YX.

Title _____ Surname _____ First Names _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone _____

536CXX

11p in the next 12 months the charges on your account are less than your refund we may require repayment. Barclays Bank PLC. Registered in London, England Reg No. 1066163. Registered Office: 34 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3AH.

Speculators switch on to Southern Electric shares

THE speculators are keeping close tabs on Southern Electric in the belief that a bid for the last of the independent regional electricity companies will not be far off.

The shares closed yesterday 13p dearer at 449.25p, just a shade below their highest level of the past year, as a further 1.55 million shares changed hands in a market normally dealing in 10,000 shares at a time.

The speculators are reluctant to put a name to any of the potential suitors, although it is known there is no shortage among the numerous American power companies. At these levels, Southern carries a price tag of £2.2 billion. Speculation has intensified following last month's agreed bid for Yorkshire Electricity by two US power companies.

The rest of the equity market closed at another new high after a near 30-point turnaround with the help of another positive start to trading on Wall Street. All-Share, Chairman of the FTSE 100, was yesterday's busiest of the day, with the FTSE 100 index closing 2.4 higher at a record 4,360.1 as 809 million shares changed hands.

Compass Group, the contract caterer, fell 27p to 715p after learning that its biggest shareholder was reducing its holding. Accor, the French hotels group, is cutting its 21.5 per cent stake to 10 per cent.

Brokers were keeping their ears to the ground last night, hoping for some positive news for Cable and Wireless out of Hong Kong. Word is something may be afoot at its 56 per cent-owned Hongkong Telecom subsidiary. The price closed 7.7p dearer at 501.2p.

A downgrading by Goldman Sachs, just a day before it publishes full-year results, left Glaxo Wellcome 21p down at 641p.

Reuters fell 15.5p to 644p on vague talk of a rights issue to help to finance a major acquisition. The group is already sitting on almost £1 billion in cash. Earlier in the day a line of 462,385 shares went through the market at 641p.

Full-year figures from Cadbury Schweppes came in towards the top end of expectations and the shares responded with a rise of 19p at 529p. The group was confident



John Sunderland, chief executive, and Dominic Cadbury of Cadbury Schweppes, saw shares make a 19p advance

about current trading prospects and hinted that it could afford to finance a major acquisition up to the £2 billion. But Dominic Cadbury, chairman, warned that the strong pound could put a £2 million dent in profits.

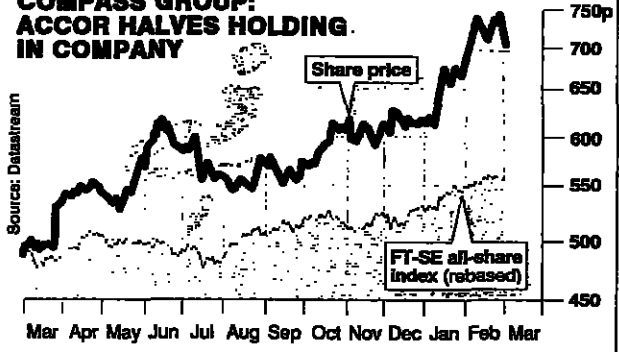
Speculative buying continued to edge Pilkington higher. The price firmed up to 145p on turnover of 2.31 million

pending the announcement of a change of shareholders. T&N has an option to acquire a 49.9 per cent stake.

BAT Industries' full-year figures came in bang in line with City expectations. The group was in upbeat mood with tobacco-related illness claims unlikely to affect performance. It refused to comment on reports it had talked

with Commercial Union, up 10p at 731p, about a possible merger last year. BAT finished 18.1p lower at 531p.

Shield Diagnostics put in a late spurt to finish 44.2p higher on the day at 605p in heavy turnover of 777,751 shares in what is normally a 2,000-share market. City speculators are hoping for rich rewards from the group's di-



agnostic treatment for the early detection of heart disease.

HIV Group fell 10p to 350.25p after reporting a drop in profits. A return to the black was good for Trace Computers, up 8p at 59.25p, while further losses failed to rattle British Biotech, steady at 251.25p.

Micro Focus soared 87.1p to £11.1 on the back of reduced losses.

Mackie International rallied 17.2p to 148.25p. The shares fell sharply on Tuesday after the breakdown of talks that could have led to a bid.

Pace Micro Technology edged 4.1p higher at 118p still hoping to be awarded the contract to supply BSkyB with television decoder boxes. The share price has tumbled from 235p this month after two profit warnings.

A bid approach was good news for Collesse Group, 12p dearer at 82.25p. It looks as if the executive directors are putting together an offer for the media company.

Metal Bulletin is becoming something of a cash cow these days with £12.5 million in the bank. Yesterday the price of the metals information publisher slipped 5p to £12.25 after announcing its tenth year of record profits. Rival publisher Emap, up 8p at 747p, holds 20 per cent of the shares.

A profits warning and the decision to suspend paying a dividend left Eadie Holdings 4.1p lower at 10p. Michael Green, chairman, and Peter Brown, a director, have resigned.

GI-EDGED: There was a further steepening of the yield curve as longer-dated issues suffered falls stretching to £1. This followed claims from the futures pit that the launch of economic and monetary union had been delayed.

The June series of the long gilt fell 5.4p to £111.12 as the number of contracts completed reached 91,000. Treasury 8 per cent 2015 shed 8.2p to £104.13, while Treasury 8 per cent 2020 was three ticks off at £103.11.

NEW YORK: Wall Street put a positive spin on Alan Greenspan's remarks ahead of his congressional testimony, while the February employment report, out tomorrow, loomed large. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 38.10 points lower at 6,890.82.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 6890.82 (-38.10)
S&P Composite 795.76 (-4.81)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18272.51 (-291.27)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 12410.76 (-30.32)

Amsterdam:
EOE Index 755.23 (-1.83)

Sydney:
All Ordinaries 2433.00 (-0.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX 3364.99 (-44.33)

Singapore:
Strait Times 2192.93 (-2.09)

Brussels:
General 12089.34 (-75.98)

Paris:
CAC-40 2666.19 (-14.50)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 950.80 (-8.10)

London:
FT 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE Mid 250 4678.6 (-12.0)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

FTSE 100 4360.1 (-2.4)

Hope in German option

T&N is not an obvious candidate for a leading role in restructuring the automotive components industry. Its balance sheet is shot to ribbons - largely because of a massive provision for future asbestos injury claims. Its margins have weakened because difficult markets and another round of redundancies will cost the company some £25 million.

But Sir Colin Hope and his T&N board refuse to lie down and, despite yesterday's gloom results, they had something to smile about. Its game of 'softly, softly, catchee me' with the German piston maker, Kolbenschmidt, could be about to pay off. The company's appeal against the German Cartel Office seems to have gone in its favour. Meanwhile, Rheinmetall, a German engineer with no piston interests, has acquired 25 per cent of Kolbenschmidt, a move that T&N

appears to regard as friendly, notwithstanding the aggressive stance yesterday adopted by Rheinmetall, which said it was seeking majority control of Kolbenschmidt.

A full takeover of Kolbenschmidt by Rheinmetall should pose no problems for German competition authorities but also makes little sense for the German buyer, whose business brings little synergy to the pistons company. A joint venture with T&N, however, would bring greater benefits.

T&N is not looking cheap; the market worth of the company plus the net present value of the asbestos liabilities is 14 times estimates of this year's earnings. Clearly, there is hope value in these shares; T&N has climbed more than a few mountains. No one should be surprised if a rights issue accompanies exercise of the Kolbenschmidt option.

Cadbury

JOHN SUNDERLAND, chief executive of Cadbury Schweppes, is at least making the right noises about shareholder value.

By singing from a politically correct hymnbook, he may have eliminated a few nagging doubts. Concerns about dilution have been calmed by a promise not to issue more shares except as a last resort.

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

POPS LACK FIZZ

The virgin territories of Poland, China and Russia are also slow to bear fruit. Millions are being lost, and Cadbury does not expect profits until 2000.

The rise in the shares puts Cadbury on an average rating. Until there is more news, this looks generous for a company in such an unenviable position.

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

It is the Schweppes part of the company, and not the Cadbury, that is causing concern. Confectionery is in good form; its share of the UK market is still solid.

But all the jingoism in the world cannot cure the com-

The market has had its fill of Cadbury paper. The directors' pledge to stake their bonuses on shareholder value is criteria whatever that may be - sounds brave.

TrizecHahn

THE mercurial Dieter Bock always surprises. Out of a messy situation in Africa, he has pitched his tent amid the sheltering steel and glass towers of TrizecHahn, a large North American property development company. Mr Bock is selling some of his own property developments - including the former Mappin & Webb site in the

City of London - to acquire a modest stake in TrizecHahn. Mr Bock's pedigree suggests he will not be content with 4 per cent of anything. However, the tiller at TrizecHahn is firmly in the hands of Peter Munk. The man who turned Barrick into the world's most successful gold producer is no pushover.

This begs the question as to why TrizecHahn wants Mr Bock. The American developer has been desperate to extend its reach beyond North American shores and, to date, has little to show besides a business park near Berlin and some joint ventures in Eastern Europe. Real estate is an insider's game. Mr Bock could provide the German connections that kickstart TrizecHahn's stalled Euro-ambitions.

Even if it does not pay off, Mr Bock's 4 per cent in TrizecHahn is not as sensitive as his 18 per cent stake was in Lonrho.

EDITED BY CARL MORTISHAW

COMMODITIES

ICE-100 (London 6.00pm)

CRUDE OILS (per barrel FOB)

Spot CIF NW Europe (bromel FOB)

PRODUCTS (MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (bromel FOB)

Spot CIF NW Europe (bromel FOB)

Spot CIF NW Europe (bromel FOB)

Spot CIF NW Europe (bromel FOB)

THE
TIMESCITY
DIARYPapouis retains
Pollard

MORE on NatWest's trials and tribulations. I can report that Kyriacos Papouis, the former trader at the centre of an investigation into a £50 million write-off at NatWest, has retained Stephen Pollard of Kingsley Napley, the law firm, to represent his interests.

Pollard is best-known for his skilful handling of Nick Leeson's case, including the rogue trader's interrogation by fraud squad officers in his Frankfurt prison cell and the subsequent court case in Singapore. More importantly for Papouis is that Pollard, Napley's youngest equity partner, is an expert on City regulation.

Election tippie

TRUE-BLUE Archie Norman is cashing in on the forthcoming elections with a selection of political ales. The prospective Conservative parliamentary candidate, who unwittingly predicted a Labour victory, will be stocking Asda's shelves with Major's Mild, Tony's Tippie, and Ashdown's Ale.

The Conservative brew is modestly described as "a great British beer that has been popular for some years now with the landed gentry and the City. Perhaps for the richer palate and rumoured to be good for the constitution."

Tony's Tippie is described as "a Labour of love. It had mass appeal back in the Seventies followed by a fall in demand. The beer is now enjoying something of a comeback." Curiously, the only election beer label Asda sent back to the drawing board was Tony's Tippie — "for the social drinker."



"I had this most marvellous dream in which Tiny took over at Lonrho"

Distinctive note

GRAHAM KENTFIELD will take a copy of a 200-year-old pound note to West Wales today. The visit by the Bank of England's chief cashier is to mark the bicentenary of the ill-fated invasion of 1,400 Frenchmen at Fishguard in 1797. Their arrival led to panic in the Square Mile: there was a run on the Bank's gold reserves, and it became necessary to issue for the first time, £1 and £2 notes.

Curry flavour

CITY types know a good restaurant when they see one — or at least they think they do. So it comes as no surprise that Christopher Reeves, the chairman of Merrill Lynch Europe, made certain he was heard when it came to making a nomination for the London Restaurant Awards. He both faxed and sent a hard copy of his nomination to the award organisers, hailing Chutney Mary's in King's Road, Chelsea, his number one curry haunt.

UNDER the spotlight at a Downing Street press conference yesterday, Peter Lilley was somewhat tongue-tied. Unwilling plans to abolish Serps, the Social Security Secretary referred to Britain's "biggest spread of home ownership." Quickly, he corrected himself: "Oops, I mean pension ownership." No Peter, I think you mean pension ownership.

MORAG PRESTON

A strange air of unreality gathers over politicians when they start thinking about pensions. Conservative and Labour alike switch into their most statesmanlike mode when confronted with the ticking demographic timebomb of ageing, supposedly about to hit Britain with the force of an off-course meteor. No matter that the suspect package contains only a small device, it could cause moderate fiscal damage in 30 years time but should by then be deactivated by greater saving, a higher birth rate, longer working lives, immigration, steadier growth or some other combination of natural economic processes.

Fired by the "need" to address a long-term issue and edged on by life assurance groups ravenous for new products, the parties have duly shown their modern colours. New Labour has applied relentlessly sensible pragmatism, ending with a mishmash of modest, overlapping, politically correct proposals to extend the voluntary pensions net.

Conservatives were expected to phase out the tatty state earnings related pension scheme (Serps). Instead they have applied free-market ideology rigorously, devising a radical programme to privatise the universal or "basic" state pension and to enforce compulsory private saving. Oddly, their proposals attack a problem that does not really exist. And if it did, they would not solve it.

The real pension issue is to persuade people to save more voluntarily to meet higher costs and expectations in retirement and make good the withering away of the basic state pension. While both parties

devise new schemes of varying merit, however, the existing occupational pension system is also withering away.

In contrast to the total social security budget, the burden of the basic state pension has tumbled in the past 15 years, to about 4 per cent of national income. Taxpayers have saved far more by indexing the pension to prices instead of earnings than they have spent paying pensions to more people for longer. The slice of the national cake now used for basic pensions would amply cover a sharper rise in the number of pensioners between 2015 and 2030.

If we designed a new pension system from scratch, we might well adopt Chile's model of forced saving with a limited choice of highly regulated providers, instead of a pay-as-you-go tax transfer between the generations. The International Finance Corporation commends it for emerging countries with unstable governments as well as for collapsed former communist states where pension rights have been wiped out by inflation. For a stable developed country, it still has the advantage of channeling money into private business, but also the fundamental drawback of forcing two generations

Small earthquake from
Chile, not many votesGRAHAM
SEARJEANT

(who cannot yet vote) to pay both for their own pensions and for other people's.

Privatising the basic state pension aims to restrict the maw of the state and cut the tax burden. In reality, it will raise the tax burden, mainly to replace lost national insurance contributions. Just as rent deregulation and VAT on fuel boosted social security spending, just as rail privatisation initially boosted subsidies, so the Chilean experiment would have the opposite effect to that intended in the short term. In this case, the short-term could be more than 40 years.

Worst of all, this irrelevant vote-loser could well cut total retirement savings. The aim is to replace most of the lost NICs by abolishing tax relief on all the new generation's pension contributions, shifting relief to pensions in payment. By the normal laws of supply and demand, you would expect this to cut demand for voluntary second-tier pensions, which should provide the bulk of retirement income for most people. This disincentive would be even greater if people believed that the privatised pension would be bigger than the state pension it replaced.

Conveniently, free-marketeers now contend that relief does not affect savings. Without up-front relief, however, the same proportion of income saved will yield a smaller pension. It is too easy to forget that investment returns affect pensions as much as contributions. Without contribution relief, money-purchase pension schemes might well disappear in favour of more flexible Pep-type savings vehicles.

Three threats already hang over pensions. Mis-selling of personal pensions after earlier attempts to scale down Serps led to a collapse of the market, which is only now

recovering. The providers are just the sort of companies to whom the basic state pension would be handed over. They need to demonstrate that they can provide pensions at much lower cost for low earners or those with irregular incomes before they can even be entrusted with more money that would have gone into Serps.

The tougher investment standards imposed by the new Pensions Act, allied to City pressure on companies to restrict variable pension costs are persuading a growing stream of employers to abandon schemes guaranteed to pay pensions according to final salary. These are being replaced by money-purchase funds that are simpler and potentially better but drastically underfunded. Combined contributions are typically 10 per cent of pay rather than 15 per cent plus. Many more employers will switch to cheap fixed-cost schemes once contribution holidays paid for by the share boom end.

Finally, both parties' Treasury teams are eyeing the vast potential tax "loss" through pension scheme perks. Labour, in particular, may well end tax relief on dividends and restrict gains tax relief. Again, that will cut returns and ultimately cut pensions.

Earners must pay for non-earners, through taxes or by profits and interest taking a thicker slice of the national cake. Instead of addressing poverty, the key to expanding that cake, we seem to be limbering up for a fiscal war between the generations. Suicide kits for the retired, whether private or free on the National Health, may not be far away.

LibDems passionately sell
distinct economic approach

Janet Bush says

Malcolm Bruce

has declared

a plague on

both Labour

and the Tories

The joint statement on constitutional reform published yesterday by Labour and the Liberal Democrats gave proof, if any were needed, that the two parties are likely to co-operate closely in the event of a Labour election victory.

But, even as the final touches were being agreed, Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, vehemently denied any favouritism towards Labour and bias against the Conservatives as far as the economy was concerned. In an interview with *The Times*, Mr Bruce declared a plague on both their houses.

"We are trying to get across to people this message. You know you want rid of the Tories, but you know in your hearts that Labour hasn't got the answer. It is a party which has torn its heart out. It has no philosophy. Its only philosophy is do whatever is necessary to win. But then what?"

An independent-minded Scot and a member of the Liberal Party since he was 17, a strategy of cosyng up to Labour appears to hold few attractions for Mr Bruce.

He urges the electorate to vote Liberal Democrat on its merits, passionately selling an array of economic policies that are quite distinct from the offerings of the two main electoral contenders. There are three main areas where Liberal Democrat policy is resolutely different. It is the only party that openly advocates raising taxes and the only party unequivocally committed to making the Bank of England independent and joining a single currency.

On tax, Mr Bruce has committed himself to a 1p rise in the standard rate of income tax and a 50p higher rate tax band for those earning more than £100,000 a year. That would plough £2 billion a year into education in each of the five years of the next Parliament and provide funds to take half a million low-paid workers out of the tax net as well as blunt the impact of the



Malcolm Bruce, the Liberal Democrats' Treasury spokesman, appears not to be attracted to a strategy of cosyng up to the Labour Party

rise in the standard rate for many others by raising personal allowances. In addition, the Liberal Democrats have promised to put an extra 5p on a packet of cigarettes, using the money to abolish charges for eye and dental checks. The beauty of the programme is that it is costed, overtly devotes funds to address the key issues of low pay and education, and even demonstrates in a concrete way how funds can be redistributed to reflect different priorities — a strategy touted by Labour but not detailed in any way.

Mr Bruce is scathing about the two main parties' refusal to acknowledge a need to raise taxes to pay for improvements in public services that the electorate demands and is being promised. He says there is plenty of evidence that voters understand quite a lot of people will not get something for nothing, but nevertheless, they are not being told the truth.

"They have been deceived by the Tories who have claimed to cut taxes and have actually across the board in-

creased them so that they are higher than they were under the last Labour government. They have only been able to finance their programme over the last 17 years by selling off the family silver and they are running out of things to sell. The Tories are asking questions as to how other parties will finance their programme. I think it is a very big question mark as to how the Conservatives could finance another Parliament." But Labour comes in for just as much flak.

"They will do as the Tories do, which is find other taxes, probably less progressive taxes than income tax, less fair taxes, ones that will hit the poor harder than the better off. It is a fair betrayal of what Labour once stood for."

For all the vehemence of his position, Mr Bruce is pursuing an uncomfortable and, in some ways, limited middle route. He has to admit that £2 billion a year will not solve all the shortcomings of Britain's educational system, but he defends the programme on the ground that the other two

parties are offering nothing. And, for all the courage of going into the election offering tax increases, he will not go so far as to say that there may be a deeper fiscal problem that must be tackled. It is difficult, he admits, for his party to go even further out on a limb given that the others refuse point blank to admit that there is any pressure on them to cut spending or raise taxes.

Mr Bruce shows little doubt on the two major changes his party offers on the conduct of monetary policy. He sides totally with the Bank of England on the recent disagreement with Kenneth Clarke on interest rates in the face of virtual unanimity in the City and the body politic that the Chancellor has probably got it right by resisting calls for higher rates. If anything, the Bank has not been tough enough in pursuing the Government's inflation target because, without full independence, it is not in a strong enough position.

But the current argument over rates is beside the point.

The only thing that matters is that decisions are taken out of the hands of politicians. "I defy you to convince me that a Chancellor of the Exchequer who is 20 points behind in the polls four months from an election doesn't have that in his mind when he is asked to consider interest rate changes," he says.

Mr Bruce argues that long-term rates could be 1.5 per cent lower than they are now if the Bank were independent, saving Britain £5 billion a year in interest charges on its borrowing. He also believes that the Bank should continue to have a single statutory purpose of bearing down on inflation, in contrast to Labour which wants to see the Bank to pursue economic growth as well. "Making the cultural shift in this country to the idea that permanently sustained low inflation is the bedrock of economic policy requires that this is the overriding objective. If you start to fragment that, there is a danger that you lose sight of that."

The same conviction that

monetary policy is better handed over to the professionals appears to underlie the commitment to a single currency. Mr Bruce expresses admiration for the determination to press ahead with monetary union in spite of all the difficulties. It is, he says, an ambitious project just like the European Union itself and the single market, both of which have come an incredible distance. But there is also a gut feeling that Britain has no right to sign up for something and then not play by the rules.

"We seem to be in a position of having joined a tennis club and then complaining it's not a golf club."

He challenges British Eurosceptics to back up their opposition to a single currency with a realistic alternative. "This is the last chance for Britain to get on board or probably fall off completely. Increasingly, it seems that the Eurosceptics are not opposing monetary union but want to take Britain out. But they have articulated nowhere where we can seriously go."

BUSINESS
LETTERSEversholt was
undervaluedFrom Mr Brian
Hutchinson

Sir, The lead story in your business section of February 20 about the £42 million profit for the four directors of Eversholt Leasing does, I agree with Labour, warrant a Commons debate. Had these gentlemen gained, say £1 million each, that would seem reasonable alongside the £230,000 received by the other 66 Eversholt employees.

What is also worrying is the personal profit gained by the four directors of Candover, the venture capital backers of the buyout who share between them £600,000, presumably on top of fees and commissions earned by their company.

I work in the private sector for a major plc and find it difficult to imagine how the rolling stock companies could have been so undervalued by the Transport Department. Could it be that the DoT only really understands value for money in road terms? This would explain their rather quaint attitude to the rail network.

As I stand in the rain on Southampton Parkway Station each weekday morning with my (ESK plus) season ticket in my pocket, I find it increasingly difficult to support the privatisation of the railways. A few people have made millions overnight, the services are certainly no better, and I no longer have any ownership of our railways. Where is the "value added" we were all promised?

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN HUTCHINSON,
10 Oakwood Court,
Oakwood Close,
Chandlers Ford,
Hampshire.

Moral maze over
genetic testing

From Mr Richard Hawkes

Sir, Pennington (*The Times* Business, February 19) is of the view that "the insurance industry will one day have to take a moral stand and forbid refusal of cover", even where genetic testing shows that provision of that cover is likely to lead to a loss.

What moral attitude should a member of the public take if he knows that:

- his genetic testing shows he will die early;
- insurance companies are required to provide him with cover at a price suitable for people in good health?

It's all very well for the organiser to run a lottery that no one wins, but who would run one that self-selected people would never lose?

Yours faithfully,
C.R.C. HAWKES
Lane Clark & Peacock,
St Paul's House,
St Paul's Hill,
Winchester,
Hampshire.

Letters to the
Business
Section
of The
Times
can be sent
by fax on
0171-782 5112.

Jon Ashworth reflects on Dieter Bock's in and out career with Lonrho

Tiny's 'corporate son' rides off into sunset

When Dieter Bock first surfaced at Lonrho in February 1993, Tiny Rowland, the company's mercurial founder, could hardly have been more fulsome in his praise. The German property entrepreneur, then 53, was hailed as the heir-apparent, a prodigal son, a hero. Rowland, welcoming Bock as joint chief executive, said that the pair would work "happily, smoothly and indivisibly". They swiftly became known as the "indivisibles".

As marriages go, it did not last long. Barely six months into the job, reports of "tensions" were circulating. Indeed, in October 1993, Mr Rowland, then 75, said of the German entrepreneur: "I'm still waiting for some performance from him. So far, he hasn't delivered a stroke of business. Frankly, he hasn't got a clue." One can only imagine the atmosphere after that little episode.

Mr Bock's attempts to "normalise" Lonrho continued in early 1994, with the ousting of four of Mr Rowland's long-standing boardroom allies. Later in the year, Lonrho issued a terse statement announcing that Mr Rowland was to resign as joint managing director and chief executive. He was invited to stay on as president, and would continue to draw a £1.2 million salary.

Then came the coup de grace. In March 1995, Mr Rowland was handed a letter telling him he was being removed as a director, employee and president-elect. There was no payoff, and — outrageously — he would no longer have the run of Lonrho's Gulfstream GIV jet. Mr Rowland was "totally shocked", and swore to pursue Mr Bock "until the end of his days". He went on to rubbish Mr Bock's performance in at least two circulars,

distributed at great expense to Lonrho's 54,000 shareholders.

Hardly surprising, perhaps, that Mr Bock had had enough. He initiated the process last October when he sold his 18 per cent stake to Anglo American, the South African mining colossus, for £257 million, and stepped down as Lonrho's chief executive. He retired as a director at the Lonrho annual meeting in two weeks.

How will Mr Bock be remembered in years to come? To some extent he is as much of an enigma as when he first came on the scene four years ago: the quietly-spoken German property entrepreneur who found himself embroiled in British boardroom politics. Born in the former East Germany, his family moved to West Germany in 1956. He studied law and accountancy and went on to form his own consulting firm in Frankfurt in 1973. He began

investing in real estate the following year, and later extended his property interests to South Africa and America.

Nobody has ever been quite sure how Mr Bock made his money, and he seems to like it that way. Intensely private, he is married, with four children, enjoys sailing and is a patron of the arts. He is commonly associated with two companies: Advanta Management, which at one time had a stake in Kempinski, the hotel group, and Laerstate, a privately owned company registered in The Netherlands.

There was a time when Mr Rowland would introduce his new-found partner as "my corporate son, Dieter Bock, who will replace me". Towards the end, he was more fond of observations such as: "Mr Bock doesn't own a single asset in his own name, except his bicycle — and perhaps his wife."

Mr Bock has got on his bike.



Rowland: victim of coup

British innovation 'is being blunted by a financial vacuum'

BETWEEN the first and second halves of *News at Ten*, viewers not making a cup of tea have recently been treated to a weird advert singling the praises of Bill Gates. Microsoft and the Nasdaq stock market. It charts the software company's success and closes by asking where else investors could find companies capable of such meteoric growth.

Withers, the City law firm, has come up with a suggestion why the London Stock Exchange cannot muster similar success stories to boast about.

In a report released today, it points out that Microsoft was born from start-up funds provided by a company willing to commit money to someone who was little

more than a Harvard drop-out with a good idea. After targeting the FT-SE 350 companies, it has found Britain's top businesses are much more averse to risk, creating a culture where a young Master Gates would have been given short shrift.

As a result, it says, Britain is falling into the laggards' league in the international technology stakes. For six months, Withers has been taking the pulse of corporate venturing, where large companies invest in smaller development companies in the same field. It is intended as a long-term plan, using money more efficiently than with in-house development.

The Withers report found that most

Fraser Nelson and Ashley Potter discover a worrying aversion to corporate venturing

British companies are unwilling to make such an investment. David Gebbie, the author of the report, believes this reluctance is blunting the country's competitive edge. He said: "It seems that the UK is in danger of becoming a nation of shopkeepers selling products developed in other countries."

"This is not through a lack of innovation, but through a financial vacuum which is leaving many of them without

the vital funds they need to develop. If we don't do something about it now and re-evaluate the importance of corporate venturing we will fall behind the opposition."

The report found that the core of companies that had tried corporate venturing did so for long-term growth and as part of a diversification strategy. More than 35 per cent of those involved in venturing said they considered it vital

for commercial survival. Where there were problems, these were caused by companies trying to exert control over the smaller company. Most firms that would not consider corporate venturing said they were unwilling to accept the "hands-off" attitude which is crucial to success.

The reluctance is being felt by Britain's inventors, who are today staging an exhibition of their devices in London. It is being organised by Inventor Link, which helps inventors to market their inventions. Richard Paine, chairman of Inventor Link, said: "There is no lack of venture capital floating around. The problem is that it only comes in chunks of millions. The people we organise only

need tranches of £100,000 to develop. This can only be bad for Britain's long-term prospects."

Corporate venturing would not seem to offer much of a solution. The survey found that the average sum invested was around £500,000 — half the average investment of a venture capitalist, but still way out of the average investor's league.

Mr Gebbie says that any further improvement in the situation would need a fundamental shift in the nation's way of looking at ventures. "In Britain, if you try something and fail, then you are seen as a loser," he said. "In the US, if you fail you are seen as a trier. It is this philosophical difference which is the problem."

BICC keeps cash tight to cut debts by £225m

By OLIVER AUGUST

BICC, the cable and construction group, reduced its debts from £305 million to £80 million last year but expects continuing problems in the European building sector.

Alan Jones, chief executive, said: "We have managed our cash very tightly; these numbers are better than had been expected." Contrary to the current trend, the group benefited from exchange rate changes. The value of its dollar-denominated contracts rose and copper price changes boosted cashflows.

Mr Jones said: "With our improved financial position, we are continuing with investments with considerable capi-

tal expenditure in 1997. Projects will be completed in 1997 and 1998 and will contribute to further growth."

The squeeze on government spending in Europe to fit economies for monetary union has prolonged the construction slump. In the UK, BICC escaped the depressed conditions by developing a rail maintenance division that incorporates several former British Rail units and is already profitable.

Market conditions in the European cable sector were "particularly difficult" in the first part of 1997, but Mr Jones said: "We do, however, expect the improvements in our growth areas of business to continue, with an emphasis on the second half."

Results for the year to December 31 show pre-tax profits up 18 per cent, to £129 million. Earnings per share rose to 13p from 9p, and the dividend was lifted to 12.5p from 12.4p. Revenue increased to £4.7 billion from £4.4 billion.

Balfour Beatty, the main construction and engineering business, saw profits fall to £10 million from £18 million but BICC stressed that, after revamping the management, it now expected gradual improvements in performance.

The group said it continued to strengthen its position in selected regions of the world, with improvements in its established businesses in Indonesia and the Middle East. Overall, the Balfour Beatty order book, now including that of the acquired rail units, stands at £2.3 billion, with 34 per cent outside the UK.

In cables, the major rationalisation programme announced over the last 15 months benefited European and North American operations. Profits in BICC Cables improved 19 per cent, to £94 million, but the second half was adversely affected by a gap in the normal order pattern for the profitable extra high-voltage cable business and increasingly difficult trading conditions in Europe.

Tempus, page 28



Climbing higher: Paul Davies, chief executive of Parity, left, and David Firth, finance director, enjoyed a good year

Unemployed flock to Wales in search of Korean jobs

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

THOUSANDS of jobseekers from all over Britain have joined the rush for work at the Korean microchip project in South Wales.

Kelter International, a recruitment firm, revealed that 5,000 hopefuls from as far afield as Scotland and Somerset had applied for work at the two LG electronics factories being built at Newport.

More than 6,000 jobs are being created in the £1.7 billion expansion, the biggest far East investment ever

made in Europe. Nick Pilgrim, recruiting consultant at Kelter, said 60 per cent of registered applications had come from outside Wales.

He added: "Wales has become a huge magnet for people seeking long-term, secure careers and there could be over 30,000 job vacancies on offer." As well as 6,000 LG jobs, it is estimated that 22,000 more workers will be required to fill posts in scores of companies supplying the Koreans with components and

services. About 5,000 construction workers will also be needed to build the LG complex and Millennium projects in other parts of South Wales.

Mr Pilgrim said the jobseekers were attracted to Wales as a country and because of the "security element in the jobs on offer". LG will make computer monitors, large-screen TVs and semi-conductors for the electronics industry. The first phase will start production by the end of the year.

Profits and payout soar at Parity

By OUR CITY STAFF

PARITY, the computer software and services group, increased annual pre-tax profits from £6.5 million to £10.1 million in the year to December 31. Earnings grew from 10.34p to 15.81p and the total dividend for the year rises from 2.5p to 4p.

The current year has started well in an improving market, particularly on the Continent. Parity said that the millennium issue is attracting "increasing attention" and will be "important" to Parity, "as may the considerable software reworking which would result from monetary union".

Parity anticipates further "add-on" acquisitions this year, mainly in Britain and probably in the solutions business. The company said: "We studied a number [of acquisitions] over 1996 and see potential targets regularly but nothing is on the cards at the moment." The company added: "We also believe that the trend to self-employment, which is particularly logical in the fast changing technology sector, will continue and this is encouraging for the Parity business model."

Flotation still in Optus sights

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

OPTUS Communications, Australia's second largest telephone company, in which Cable and Wireless has a 24.5 per cent stake, yesterday confirmed that it still plans to float on the stock market this year once litigation over its pay-TV joint venture is resolved.

The group, which began operating in Australia five

years ago, was forced to postpone its A\$4 billion (£2 billion) float last year after it was unable to issue a prospectus because of a dispute between Optus Vision, its 46.5 per cent owned subsidiary, and the Seven Network, the Australian television station.

Ziggy Switkowski, chief executive, said a 1997 float was

"still very much our desire". Optus made net profits of A\$59 million (A\$7 million) in the half year to December 31, with total revenues up 32 per cent at A\$1.2 billion.

Optus, established five years ago, now has an 18 per cent share of the long distance market and 32 per cent of the total mobile phone market.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Loss turns to profit at Thomson-CSF

THOMSON-CSF, the French defence-electronics group that is being privatised, recovered to show a net profit of FF745 million in 1996 from a loss of FF791 million in 1995. The value of orders on December 31 exceeded FF67 billion, the company said. Sales rose 2.2 per cent to FF36.27 billion. The French Government intends to sell Thomson-CSF by direct negotiation and has signalled that it wants the company to become a centre of the French, and even European defence industries capable of competing throughout the world with leading American electronics groups.

The two bidders so far are the French Lagardère Group, which won an abandoned first round of privatisation at the end of last year, and Alcatel-Alsthom, the French group, which now plans to link its offer with the merger of Dassault and Aérospatiale, the French groups. Thomson-CSF owns 17.4 per cent of SGS-Thomson, a French-Italian company, but is likely to dispose of this holding when it is privatised.

Metal Bulletin ahead

METAL BULLETIN, the business information company, reported an increase in pre-tax profits to £5.1 million in 1996, from £4.23 million in the previous year. Turnover of £22.8 million compared with £19.8 million previously. Earnings were 34.4p a share, rising from 28.3p. The total dividend is increased to 20p a share from 16p, with a 14.2p final. Trevor Tarring, the chairman, said that the company was confident about the long-term success of its newly launched Internet businesses.

Eadie shares tumble

EADIE HOLDINGS shares fell 4½p to 10p after the company said the results for the year ended December 31 will fall significantly short of market expectations and that the final dividend would be scrapped. Michael Green has resigned as managing director and Peter Bromwich has resigned as non-executive chairman but will remain as a non-executive director. John Kernberg has been appointed executive chairman. The company said it may not follow its usual timetable this year for announcing its year-end figures.

Proposals on the pint

THE Government is inviting comments on a proposal to extend the guest beer provision to include one bottle-conditioned beer. John Taylor, the Minister for Corporate and Consumer Affairs, said that because of the recent debate about the legality of the guest beer provision under European law, the Government "discussed this change with the European Commission, which has indicated that it would fully support such an extension". Representations should be made in writing to the Department of Trade and Industry by April 21.

Crédit Suisse in red

CRÉDIT SUISSE, the second biggest Swiss banking group, has slumped into the red for the first time in its 140-year history, incurring a loss of SF2.43 billion (£1.01 billion) last year. The bank said that the loss stemmed from restructuring measures and the introduction of a management system costing SF5.4 billion. In 1995, the bank earned profits of SF1.54 billion. The bank said that operating profits fell to SF1.79 billion from SF1.81 billion. The bank is holding the total dividend at SF4.

Finelist raises payout

FINELIST, the distributor, retailer and marketer of automotive components, raised pre-tax profits to £7.1 million from £4.05 million in the half year to December 31. Earnings per share rose from 8.2p to 10.3p and the dividend rises from 1.9p to 2.2p. Chris Swan, chairman, said all divisions were enjoying organic growth and the contributions from acquisitions were pleasing. "The directors view the prospects for the year to June 30 with continued confidence," he said.



**MITSUBISHI
INTRODUCE
THE NEW
APRICOT FT1200
SERVER**

- ✓ Intel 200MHz Pentium®Pro Processor
- ✓ 32Mb ECC Memory
- ✓ 2Gb UltraWide SCSI disk
- ✓ 3C900 PCI Ethernet card
- ✓ 8 speed CD-ROM drive
- ✓ Integrated System Management
- ✓ Four Internal dedicated 3.5" fixed disk drive bays
- ✓ Manufacturer's RAID option†
- ✓ UPS option†
- ✓ Lockable fixed disks & Exchangeable areas
- ✓ PCI Bus
- ✓ USB

£1,999 (£2,348.83 inc VAT)

SPEC FOR SPEC, POUND FOR POUND, NOTHING COMES CLOSE.

0800 212 422

If ever there was a demonstration of the sheer technological might of Mitsubishi, it's the new Apricot FT1200 server. Because nothing can touch it for overall specification at - or anywhere near - the price.

In the first place, because the Apricot FT1200 boasts Intel's 200MHz Pentium Pro processor.

In the second place, because the Apricot FT1200 offers the kind of performance and security features normally found in high-level servers for the price of some desktops.

Like ultra-wide SCSI. Like lockable fixed disks. Like the ability to spread data across a number of hard drives or even configure one disk as a "hot spare" to automatically take over from a failed disk.

In fact, spec for spec the FT1200 trounces the "equivalent" models from Compaq, Dell, HP or IBM. Which, when you think about it, doesn't make them very "equivalent".

CALL NOW FOR AN INFORMATION PACK

The Intel Inside Logo and Pentium are registered trademarks and the Pentium Processor Logo and the Pentium Pro Processor Logo are trademarks of Intel Corporation. Prices and specifications are correct at time of going to press. E-IDE, RAID and UPS at additional cost.




Associated British Ports delivers improved results

By MARTIN BARROW



Sir Keith Stuart is seeking to achieve additional expansion of the business

ASSOCIATED British Ports Holdings, which invested a total of £83 million in transport facilities and investment property last year, expects capital expenditure to remain high in the current year before moderating in 1998.

The company, which operates ports and associated facilities in Immingham on the Humber, Southampton and South Wales, reported a steady rise in cargo volumes and said that the improved property market was creating opportunities to enhance earnings from its substantial property portfolio.

ABP reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £93.5 million in 1996, from £88.4 million in the previous year. Profits were struck after a £3 million charge against the withdrawal from Universal Pipe Coaters, a loss-making engineering joint venture, at Immingham. Underlying pre-tax profits rose 8.7 per cent to £96.5 million.

Sir Keith Stuart, chairman, said: "Our ports and transport business is well positioned to take advantage of continuing growth in the UK and world economies. We are also seeking to achieve additional expansion of the business by providing our customers at the ports with an increased range of services and facilities."

He added: "The improving property market is giving us opportunities to create added value from our extensive port estates and to provide an additional contribution from carefully targeted projects at other locations, with a particular emphasis on distribution and business space."

Ports and transport contributed profits of £107.8 million, up from £102.7 million, including port-related property income that rose to £28.9 million from £26.9 million. A total of 118 million tonnes of cargo passed through ABP's ports in 1996, an increase of 3.5 million tonnes, or 3.3 per cent. Higher volumes of steel exports, timber imports and unit load traffic were handled, partially offset by lower levels of steel and animal feed imports.

Gearing eased to 38.3 per cent at the year-end, from 40.9 per cent previously, and net borrowings were £351 million. The interest charge was reduced to £29.3 million, from £30.7 million.

Underlying earnings rose 7.4 per cent to 17.6p a share. A final dividend of 4.25p a share lifts the total to 7.75p, from 6.5p. ABP shares, which had risen by about 20 per cent since mid-December, fell 17p to 301p yesterday.

The company, which was formerly state owned, played down fears that it might be affected by the Labour Party's proposed windfall tax on privatised utilities. Charles Orange, finance director, said: "We don't think we're liable. We are not a monopoly and we are not a utility, so we should not be included."

Hardy Oil takes stake in India

Hardy Oil & Gas, the UK energy company, is acquiring a 15.5 per cent stake in Hindustan Oil, an independent Indian exploration and production company, for £2.9 million.

Hardy said that the Hindustan investment was the latest step in an investment programme that was begun last year and will see the company increasingly involved in exploration, appraisal and development activities in offshore India.

Hyundai plan

Hyundai Motor Company said that it is negotiating a \$150 million joint venture with the Bimantara Group of Indonesia. Each party is currently in the process of obtaining governmental approvals. Hyundai said that further details of the joint venture will be released as soon as possible and it is anticipated that this will be no later than the end of June.

Ascot sales

Ascot Holdings said that it has exchanged contracts for the sale of Vantage House, Wimbledon, for £15 million. It said that following the renegotiation of a lease at Warboys Industrial Estate, Huntingdon, contracts have also been exchanged for the sale of this property for £3.025 million. Howard Dyer, chairman and chief executive of Ascot, said that the company is disposing of property assets to further reduce gearing.

Brandon deal

Brandon Hire has acquired the Southampton-based portable toilet hire business of BFI. The value of the net assets acquired is £80,000. Brandon Hire also said that it has acquired from Owen Brown the Snowdon furniture hire business. The value of these net assets is £50,000. Financial terms of the deals were not disclosed.

Women stay jobless for shorter time than men

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

WOMEN are unemployed for a shorter time than men, new Government figures show today. It may explain why unemployment among women is so much lower than for men.

Currently, the seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate for women is 3.5 per cent, with 430,000 out of work, while for men it is 8.8 per cent, or almost 1.4 million.

During the recession of the early 1990s, the female unemployment rate rose less sharply than for men, and women's unemployment is now back below its 1990 figure, while male unemployment — though falling — is still well above its 1990 level.

An analysis published by the Government suggests that one of the main reasons why female unemployment is lower than that for men is that females remain unemployed for shorter periods.

Using internationally accepted data from the Labour Force Survey, the Office for National Statistics says that 34 per cent of all unemployed women have been out of work for less than three months, compared with 22 per cent of men. At the same time, 45 per cent of all unemployed men have been out of work and looking for a job for more than a year, compared with only 28 per cent of unemployed women.

The figures may reflect employer preferences for hiring women, often at lower pay rates than men, and that many of the jobs on offer — often part-time and temporary — are frequently favoured by women.

The study of women's job and unemployment patterns, published in the latest *Labour Market Trends*, shows that compared with ten years ago there are now 1.3 million more women in work, with 700,000 of the increase in part-time jobs. Women are now in the majority in a range of industries, including health, education, hotels and restaurants, retailing and clothing manufacture.

Companies are not investing in training because of its cost, time and the view that it is a waste, according to a survey of personnel managers. In a study of more than 200 organisations, the Institute of Personnel and Development says that 56 per cent of those surveyed do not see training as a priority, with a third feeling that trained people will leave, while almost half believe it is easier to recruit employees who already have the necessary skills rather than train them themselves.

Workers at Peugeot vote for action

EMPLOYEES at Peugeot, the car manufacturer, have voted heavily in favour of industrial action, including a strike, in a dispute over pay and conditions.

Members of the Transport and General Workers' Union (TGWU) and Electrical Union at the French-owned company backed a strike by 1,721 votes to 363 and action short of a strike by 1,848 to 243.

The unions said Peugeot wanted unilaterally to bring in longer shifts, earlier starts and later finishing times.

The TGWU said the industrial relations climate had also been soured by Peugeot's refusal to talk seriously about pay.

British on Australian airports shortlist

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

THE three British contenders bidding for Australia's airports have made it through to the final stage of the privatisation process, it emerged yesterday.

BAA, the UK airport operator, National Express, the coach operator, and Manchester airport, which are each heading up separate consortia with Australian partners, have all been

shortlisted to bid for Brisbane, Melbourne and Perth airports, the first three to be sold in the Government's \$5 billion privatisation programme.

Interest from British companies in the sell-off has prompted analysts in Australia to more than double their initial estimates of how much the sale is likely to raise. Brisbane and Melbourne are now expected to carry price tags of up to \$1.4 billion (about £700 million) each with Perth expected to

raise up to \$450 million. All airports are being sold separately, with the winner of either Brisbane or Melbourne limited to owning only 15 per cent of the other.

John Fahey, the Finance Minister, said six of the original nine groups had made it through to the final stage after being judged against a range of criteria, including their development plans for the airport and their contribution to regional development. The bidders

now have the option of revising their original bids for the airports — which are being offered as 50-year leases with the option of a further 49 years — by mid-April. The Government will announce the winners in June.

Australia's remaining airports are set to be sold off in batches over the next year, although Sydney airport is unlikely to come up for sale until next century because of an ongoing political row over aircraft noise.

SIEMENS NIXDORF



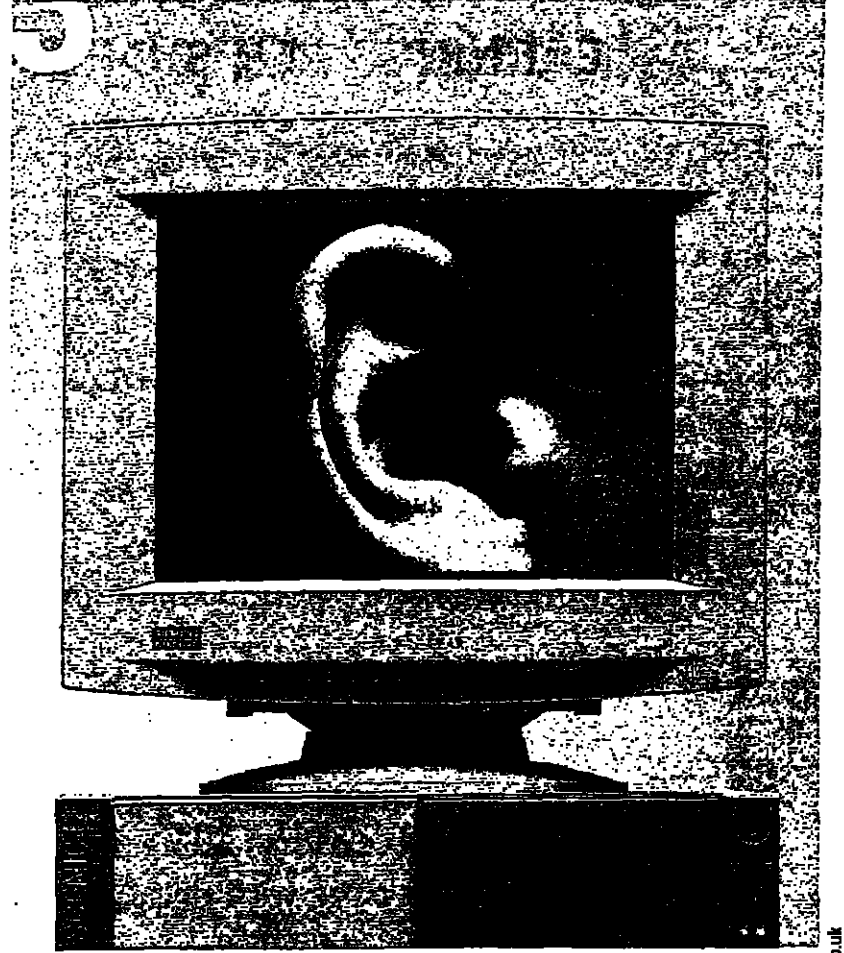
An eye for business

Vertical-market know-how is what makes Siemens Nixdorf so successful as a solutions partner. Banking, industry, retailing or the public sector — We understand the special needs of your business. And we can show you how best to use modern information technology to measure business efficiency.



A nose for trends

With our IT solutions, you couldn't be better equipped for the future. We're at the forefront when it comes to Internet or Intranet, modularly designed software architectures, network and biometric security concepts. All of our server platforms are infinitely scalable, and thus freely extendible. We can open up brand new business perspectives for you, like self-service systems or electronic commerce.



An ear for customers

We listen carefully to your needs. Your system availability requirements, for example, or whether it might be more cost-effective to use outsourcing to evolve all or part of your IT organisation. And we focus not on technology but on what it can do for you — That's what User Centred Computing is all about. For further information contact Siemens Nixdorf Information Systems Ltd, Siemens House, Oldbury, Bracknell, Berkshire RG12 8FZ.

Siemens Nixdorf: User Centred Computing

Peter Langard on proposed changes to audit exemption regulations

Charities need special treatment

On January 7, the Department of Trade and Industry published proposals to raise the audit threshold for small companies. The stated aim of the Government was to help small firms by reducing accounting burdens — in this case the statutory requirement for any form of external scrutiny for companies with turnover up to £350,000.

The Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA) has serious misgivings about the proposals, which it has expressed in a formal response to the DTI. It is also worried about the impact of any deregulation on charities.

Apart from a few sectors, such as financial services and banking, the Companies Act 1985 makes no distinction between different activities undertaken by companies. Charitable companies are not listed by the Act as ineligible for small companies exemptions and must, therefore, be covered by specific provisions in subsequent regulations.

There are no such provisions in the proposed amendments to the audit exemption regulations, which means that charitable companies with gross income up to £350,000 will not have to submit their accounts to any form of external review.

I understand that the DTI is

unwilling to make any special provision for charities in the framework of company law. I can see no justification for this position apart from administrative convenience. It is illogical for legislation to distinguish between different types of commercial undertaking but not to recognise any difference between profit-orientated businesses and non-profit organisations that rely on grants and donations.

As a practitioner, I see a very big difference between the charities that I serve as auditor or trustee and the trading concerns that form the bulk of my client base. If commercial companies fall victim to fraud or mismanagement, the losers tend to be the proprietors or similar commercial organisations.

If charities are mismanaged, or their funds fraudulently diverted, the losers are the donors and the charities' beneficiaries. The public trust can also be damaged.

Charities should be given special consideration as public interest entities for a number of reasons. They receive donations from members of the public, money given on trust in the belief that it will be spent on a worthy cause. Charities are also given grants and loans from public funds. They benefit indirectly from the public purse in that

they are granted favourable tax treatment. The public interest alone requires charities to be properly accountable for the money entrusted to them, irrespective of their constitution.

ACCA is concerned that the basic principle that all charities should be treated the same has been overlooked. If the audit exemption proposals are incorporated into regulations in their current form, there will be an imbalance between the legal requirements for charitable companies and charities that are not subject to specific legislation other than the Charities Act 1993. Charitable companies with income up to £350,000 will be totally exempt from audit, while other charities are still subject to independent examination of their accounts if their income is between £10,000 and £250,000, and to full audit if their income exceeds that upper limit.

I believe that some form of independent check is needed because charities may be more vulnerable to fraud, error or simply mismanagement than entities in many other sectors. In the first place, it is normal for charities to receive income that is unpredictable in terms of timing and amount and that is often in the form of cash. Smaller charities also tend to

be run by part-time, volunteer staff whom it may be harder to control than paid employees.

There is now a serious risk that charity promoters who wish to avoid external scrutiny of their affairs will opt for incorporation under the Companies Act. More than 13,000 registered charities are already incorporated under the Companies Act, of which only 3,000 have income above the proposed audit threshold of £350,000 and which would, therefore, be subject to audit under the new proposals.

About 115 new charitable companies are being added to the register each month. All charities have to file accounts with the Charities Commission if their gross income or total expenditure exceeds £10,000 a year, but the commission does not have the authority or the resources to go behind the reported figures in the majority of cases.

ACCA is deeply concerned that the drive for deregulation of small businesses has obscured important considerations. One of these is the need to recognise charities as a special category in companies legislation. ACCA urges the Government to address this point now.

The author is president of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants



Peter Langard is worried about the impact of deregulation

A big error of judgment that is still unresolved

PERSONAL tragedies are always sad, even when they are instructive. And the worst part is always that, with the benefit of hindsight, everyone can see how they could have been avoided.

At a disciplinary hearing this week at the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA), the details of the Jim Waits saga were examined and at every point the same question was hanging in the air: "Why do people make such disastrous errors of judgment?"

The Waits affair goes back to last October when a fateful extraordinary meeting of the ACCA was held in the same room that this week saw the resulting disciplinary hearing. The matters at issue then were those raised in the long battle waged for many years by Prem Sikka in his efforts to reform the ACCA along what he sees as more democratic lines.

In particular, the motions at the meeting called for the ACCA's office-bearers to be elected by the whole membership rather than simply by the council, and for annual meetings to be held on Saturdays to enable more members to attend.

There was also a motion that "in view of her poor performance, the ACCA chief executive's salary be halved." In other words, as often happens in squabbles of these

broader reformist issues split over into personal attacks. The meeting was broadly well behaved. There were some insults traded and there was some heckling. But both sides put their points of view. In any case, everyone knew the result was a foregone conclusion.

Only a small proportion of the membership voted, and, on the main resolution, Professor Sikka was defeated by 6,840 to 1,989.

A storm in a teacup you might think — one of those very British disputes that derive from a combination of a desire to let people have their say and dogged persistence in the face of overwhelming odds.

The tragedy did not start to unfold until the very last speech of the meeting. At that point everything was going more or less to form. Professor Sikka and his supporters had got across their point, but the strength of opposition against them was overwhelming. Then Mr Waits, the ACCA vice-president, got up to give the closing speech. Wearing his vice-presidential insignia around his neck, as the disciplinary hearing this week made much of, he was to turn the whole meeting upside down.

Mr Waits is a mild character. He had been chief executive of Worcester and District Health Authority, but had taken early retirement to devote the next three years to his work as an office-bearer of the ACCA. A pleasant and challenging vista of public ser-

vice and status stretched ahead. Then he started speaking and jaws started to drop around the room. He accused Professor Sikka of being anti-Semitic in asking for annual meetings to be held on Saturdays. He suggested that Professor Sikka's occasional use of university stationery when firing off a missive amounted to "academic sleaze". And then in what amounted to a misplaced sense of his own humour Mr Waits concluded by saying that Professor Sikka should go off and form a new accountancy body. It should be called the World Association of Non-Chartered Certified Accountants said Mr Waits, lingering on the tasteless irony.

As the disciplinary hearing heard, "confusion followed". The votes were taken and half an hour later, after many worried conversations, Mr Waits told the meeting that he hadn't intended giving any offence and apologised if any had been taken. The next weekend, council members approached Mr Waits and he tendered his resignation as vice-president and council member. On November 4 he resigned. On November 7 Professor Sikka issued an official complaint, as did other members. On January 15 the investigations committee decided that there was a case to answer and referred the matter to the disciplinary committee. In the meantime, Mr Waits had misjudged the mood again. Instead of holding up his hands and going quietly, he started making complaints about procedure. Residual sorrow at his downfall within the ACCA turned to indignation.

By the time the disciplinary committee declared the point to be proved this week, the case's costs had risen to just over £3,000. And on the ground that Mr Waits's procedural wranglings had caused most of them, he will have to foot the bill. In view of his previous "exemplary work" he was simply admonished for unprofessional behaviour. Either an appeal or a resignation from the full ACCA will follow.

The question of how Mr Waits made such an enormous error of judgment is still unresolved. For the accountancy profession, the good to have come from it is that the disciplinary system, which a number of years ago would have glossed over the affair, has brought justice in a public and transparent form.

The downside is that it shows that some accountants have still not grappled with the responsibilities they have to their fellow members and, as Professor Sikka has persistently and annoyingly lectured them, to the world beyond their own profession.



ROBERT BRUCE

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Bottom one-liner at ICAS dinner

ROBERT SMITH, president of Scots ICA and famed for vanquishing Nicola Horlick at Morgan Grenfell, brought the ICAS president's dinner to his home town of Glasgow for the first time last week. And sitting with him in the place of honour was John Barclay, to whom Smith had been apprenticed back in the 1960s. "Behind every apprentice who passes his exams", said Smith, "stands an astonished partner." Barclay came in handy later in the evening during a noisy discussion about property revaluations. The chairman of the Accounting Standards Board, Sir David Tweedie, was asked for a ruling. "I can see where your credit is," said Tweedie. "But where is your debit?" Barclay leant forward. "Nearest the window," he said, "nearest the window."

GOOD news from the Bristol-based firm of Norton Partners. The national debt is about to be paid off. The firm has come across an Inland Revenue self-assessment statement asking for £404,040,404,040.404 from a client. "That is just the first instalment," it points out. "The second, due in July, should take care of the national finances for the next millennium."

The first test

THE International Accounting Standards Committee is in deep trouble. Quite apart from its mad scramble to harmonise global standards, it has run short of tickets. The next board meeting is in Johannesburg and finishes just as the crucial one-day cricket international between South Africa and Australia is due to start. Desperate efforts to find 80 tickets for an already sold-out game are under way.

ROBERT BRUCE

BAT INDUSTRIES

Dividend up 8%

Preliminary results for the year to 31 December 1996

PRE-TAX PROFIT	£2,495m	+5%
EARNINGS PER SHARE	48.6p	+2%
BASE DIVIDENDS PER SHARE	26.0p	+8%
Additional FID payment	3.5p	

- After last year's 26 per cent increase in pre-tax profit, progress has been more measured in 1996. Pre-tax profit rose by 5 per cent, after an exceptionally high charge of £160 million in respect of US environmental claims reserving at Eagle Star. The underlying profit from continuing operations increased by 7 per cent.
- Tobacco made further progress, building on 1995's outstanding results, with profit up 7 per cent in local currency at £1,634 million.
- Financial services trading profit was £1,181 million, excluding the US environmental run-off claims, with excellent performances from Farmers and Allied Dunbar.
- "Looking forward, both our businesses have an excellent future. Our twin goals are to improve the long term growth prospects of our businesses and to increase shareholder value. We continue to evaluate business opportunities and issues of corporate structure that will enable us to meet them."

Lord Cairns, Chairman

Full financial statements for the year ended 31/12/96 will be delivered to the Registrar of Companies and carry an unqualified audit report. The 1996 Annual Report is being posted to shareholders at the end of March. Copies of the preliminary announcement may be obtained from the Company Secretary, BAT Industries p.l.c., Windsor House, 50 Victoria Street, London SW1H 0NL.

3551000000

error of
gment
t is still
esolved

Equities claw back early losses

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1996/97							1997/98							
Low Company				Price			Low Company				Price			
		+	-		+	-			+	-			+	-
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES														
548	407	Alm	400	+	75	85	13	473	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
549	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	474	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
550	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	475	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
551	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	476	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
552	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	477	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
553	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	478	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
554	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	479	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
555	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	480	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
556	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	481	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
557	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	482	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
558	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	483	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
559	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	484	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
560	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	485	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
561	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	486	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
562	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	487	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
563	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	488	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
564	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	489	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
565	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	490	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
566	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	491	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
567	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	492	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
568	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	493	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
569	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	494	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
570	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	495	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
571	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	496	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
572	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	497	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
573	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	498	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
574	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	499	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
575	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	500	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
576	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	501	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
577	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	502	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
578	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	503	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
579	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	504	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
580	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	505	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
581	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	506	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
582	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	507	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
583	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	508	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
584	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	509	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
585	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	510	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
586	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	511	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
587	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	512	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
588	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	513	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
589	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	514	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
590	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	515	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
591	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	516	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
592	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	517	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
593	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	518	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
594	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	519	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
595	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	520	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
596	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	521	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
597	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	522	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
598	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	523	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
599	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	524	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
600	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	525	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
601	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	526	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
602	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	527	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
603	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	528	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
604	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	529	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
605	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	530	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
606	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	531	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
607	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	532	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
608	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	533	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
609	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	534	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
610	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	535	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
611	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	536	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
612	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	537	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
613	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	538	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
614	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	539	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
615	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	540	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
616	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	541	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
617	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	542	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
618	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	543	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
619	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	544	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
620	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	545	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
621	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	546	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
622	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	547	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
623	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	548	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
624	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	549	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
625	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	550	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
626	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	551	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
627	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	552	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
628	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	553	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
629	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	554	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
630	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	555	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
631	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	556	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
632	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	557	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
633	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	558	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
634	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	559	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
635	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	560	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
636	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	561	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
637	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	562	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
638	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	563	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
639	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	564	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
640	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	565	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
641	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	566	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
642	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	567	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
643	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	568	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
644	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	569	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
645	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	570	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
646	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	571	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
647	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	572	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
648	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	573	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
649	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	574	328	Blackburn	423	+	13	21
650	407	Barr	400	+	75	85	13	575	328	Blackburn	423	+		

THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

W
CINEMA
ENTERTAINMENT
T

"THIS
...VEL

STARTS



FILM 1

Tom Cruise is all heart as a scarcely credible sports agent in *Jerry Maguire*



FILM 2

Pretensions and a starry cast — but a routine thriller format constrains the new *Blood & Wine*

THE TIMES ARTS



FILM 3

Irma Vep is a bright and breezy film about film-making, made in four weeks by Olivier Assayas



FILM 4

... but *Swann* is a glum Canadian tale, fitfully lifted by Miranda Richardson and Brenda Fricker

Would you buy sincerity from him?

CINEMA: Geoff Brown sees Tom Cruise widen his range and go for an Oscar in *Jerry Maguire*

Tom Cruise is such a master of the cocky grin, the slick patter and strutting walk that it comes as a shock to find that his new film, *Jerry Maguire*, invites us to examine his conscience. There he stands in the opening minutes, a successful sports PR agent with a powerful Los Angeles company, full of yuppie clones braying down phones, wondering if he has not become "another shark in a suit". To help to foster a people-friendly environment, Cruise proposes that the agency should reduce its client roster and care much more about those that remain. The sharks fire him.

Since this is movieland and not the real world, the effect is devastating. The man has to start from zero. Out of all his clients, only one, a truculent baseball player played in scene-stealing fashion by Cuba Gooding Jr, stays with him. He loses his fiancée. But all is not lost: he's still Tom Cruise, and the camera adores him. So, eventually, does Renée Zellweger, a pleasing newcomer to mainstream movies, cast as the agency accountant and single mother who braves the freelance world with Cruise and helps to reorientate his soul.

This is a long film, and not every minute is spent wisely. But, as in his last film, *Singles*, the writer and director Cameron Crowe knows enough about human behaviour to fill the broad sweep of his plot with telling moments. Gooding's bumptious and brazen Rod Tidwell exemplifies the worst aspects of the modern sports personality; but Crowe also shows him as a man with a vibrant family life, who can teach Cruise a lesson in commitment. Jonathan Lipnicki, as Zellweger's son, a six-year-old sprat with looming glasses and a beaming smile who just about avoids

being too cute, also plays a part in Maguire's education.

In its sweetness and naivety, *Jerry Maguire* echoes the Hollywood fables that used to be the preserve of Frank Capra. Capra's persistent star was James Stewart, an icon of homely virtues and idealistic impulses. Cruise is scarcely his modern equivalent; and you can never shake off the feeling that no matter what hoops Crowe's script makes him jump through, he will always remain a smooth operator. By his own standards, Cruise gives a good performance, with a wider range of emotions and expressions than usual, although, judged in the cold light of day, it hardly warrants an Oscar nomination for Best Actor.

"Things are going to turn around," Jack Nicholson tells his boozy wife Judy Davis in *Blood & Wine* after her credit card has been cancelled again. Experience tells us to doubt him: are those demonic eyes,

that frazzled face, that weary voice the attributes of success? A wine merchant in Miami, he enlists Michael Caine's wheezing safecracker to liberate a diamond necklace from a wealthy client's safe. Then his wife runs off, unwittingly taking the necklace; their discovery by his stepson (Stephen Dorff) prompts one accidental death and numerous mashed limbs.

But why I am telling you all this? The director, Bob Rafelson, certainly pays the story little attention. What matters to him is the texture of scenes and the light they shine on tortured relationships. Nicholson feeling a corpse for his booty, or tossing a cafeteria tray to the floor: these are the moments that count. Caine provides his share too, as the English expatriate who can still pack a punch while dying of emphysema.

But, for all the tension Rafelson works into isolated scenes, he is scarcely justified in regarding *Blood & Wine* as a partner to *Five Easy Pieces* and *The King of Marvin Gardens* in a trilogy about dysfunctional families. Those adventurous films of the early 1970s were made, both with Nicholson, when mainstream American cinema took risks. This is a film of the timid late 1990s, its pretensions reined in by the kind of plot you expect in a TV thriller.

There is a further difference. Back then, Nicholson was a fresh, explosive talent. Now he springs fewer surprises: we have seen that pained brow and those leering eyes too often before. *Blood & Wine* passes muster, but it can hardly be called a potent brew.

That description belongs instead to *Irma Vep*, a free-wheeling low-budget film from a French director, Olivier Assayas, new to Britain. Like many of his predecessors, he served as critic for *Cahiers du*



Tom Cruise in *Jerry Maguire*, a film which, in its sweetness and naivety, echoes the Hollywood fables that used to be the preserve of Frank Capra

Cinema, and cinema buffs form an obvious audience for this playful and poetic tale about a Hong Kong star bemused by her role as the cat-like criminal Irma Vep in a remake of the silent French serial, *Les Vampires*.

For the central role, Assayas secured the genuine Hong Kong article, Maggie Cheung. Much of the film's charm comes from her innocent response to the hurly-burly created by the remake's burnt-out director (Jean-Paul Léaud) and its lesbian costumer. Written in ten days, shot in four weeks, *Irma Vep* has a wonderful, breezy spirit, and resonates long after more well-tailored films have faded.

Swann, directed by Anna Benson Gyles, a doleful Canadian-British co-production that trudges through an unprofitable tale about an Ontario librarian and a Chicago writer drawn together by the legacy of a local poet murdered by her husband.

Brenda Fricker and Miranda Richardson make what they can with their characters, contrastingly dressed in dowdy dresses and chic black leather. But it is hard to care about their little spats, or the weak satire of academia, or the mystery surrounding the title character, Mary Swann, described as "a new Emily Dickinson". I think I'll stick with the old one.

Normal Life gives an audience a rough ride for a different reason. John McNaughton's film remorselessly follows the downward path of a rookie policeman (Luke Perry) and an unstable wife who loves astronomy and craves excitement. "Black holes are intense," Ashley Judd cries in an unnerving performance. So is the film, which pushes us into our own black hole with two characters spiralling out of control. Striking, but not very edifying.

Finally, a brief word about the Australian Film Festival, which runs for one week at the Barbican. Rareties to look for include *Love Serenade*, the quirky tale of two sisters vying for a washed-up DJ; *Have Written*; and Rolf de Heer's *The Quiet Room*, a moving examination of a collapsing marriage.

SNAP VERDICT

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

JERRY MAGUIRE
Peter Dominic, 19: Sport films are a risky business, but this is far and away the top gun.
Damian Samuels, 19: A very funny triumph.
Tim Thornton, 21: The script is wonderful and Tom Cruise is predictably first-rate.
Robert Peter Hunter, 20: A wonderful script and some outstanding performances.

BLOOD & WINE
Peter: A good cast in an unstylish crime story.
Damian: Michael Caine proves he is one of the all-time screen icons.
Tim: Caine was the only thing that kept me awake.
Robert: A dark, moody film that doesn't quite fulfil all that it promises.

NORMAL LIFE
Peter: After a dull beginning, it gets better and better.
Damian: A brilliant portrayal of smalltown America, but better suited to TV.
Tim: A supremely sexy performance from Ashley Judd.
Robert: Bleak look at American life, where dreams end in nightmares.

Jerry Maguire

Empire, 15, 138 mins

Tom Cruise gets a conscience

Blood & Wine

Odeon Haymarket

15, 103 mins

Seedy doings with Jack Nicholson

Irma Vep

ICA Cinema, 96 mins

Playful and poetic

French delight

Swann

ABC Shaftesbury

Avenue, 15, 95 mins

Glum drama from Canada

Normal Life

National Film Theatre

18, 102 mins

Gruelling trek along life's downward path

"THIS ENGROSSING THRILLER SPARKLES WITH INTELLIGENCE."

"...VERY STYLISH AND HUGELY ENTERTAINING."

"...BRILLIANTLY-ACTED."

JACK NICHOLSON



There is no honour amongst thieves.

Blood & Wine

STEPHEN DORFF

JENNIFER JUDY

JUDY DAVIS

MICHAEL CAINE

STARTS TOMORROW AT CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY

CALL 011 800 000 000 FOR FULL PROGRAMME DETAILS, NATIONWIDE

ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATION Best Foreign Language Film

BENNY ARDANT CHARLES BERING HERNARD GRAYDEAD JUDITH GOODRECHTE JEAN ROCHFOUR

Ridicule

"VERBAL FIREWORKS and SUMPTUOUS COSTUMES make a FEAST for the senses"

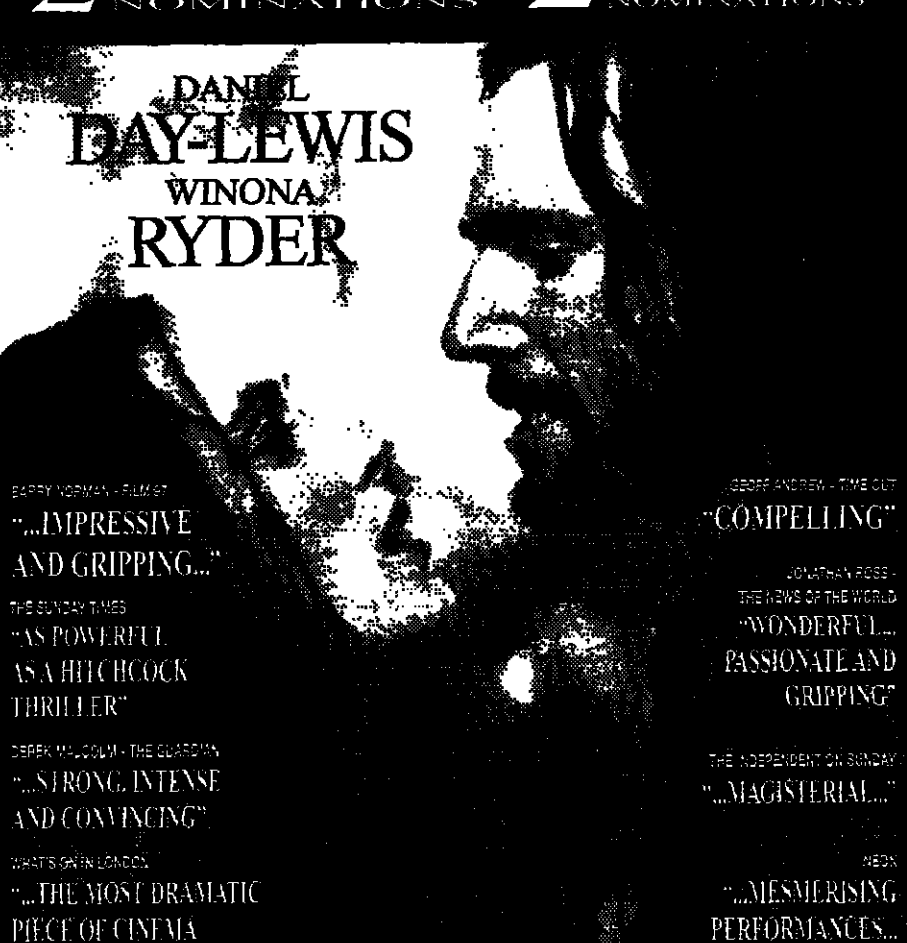
"BREATHTAKINGLY daring, lavish to look at, finely acted and BRILLIANTLY DIRECTED"

"A TRIUMPH!"

A film by PATRICE LECONTE

CURZON WEST END CHELSEA CINEMA HAMPSTEAD RICHMOND FILMHOUSE

2 ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS 2 BAFTA AWARD NOMINATIONS



THE CRUCIBLE

NOW SHOWING AT SELECTED CINEMAS ACROSS THE COUNTRY



MUSICAL

Can Francesca Zambello make the Forties wit of *Lady in the Dark* work for theatre audiences today?



THEATRE 1

The transfer of *Romance*, *Romance* brings a wry continental look at love to the West End

THE TIMES ARTS



THEATRE 2

... while *The Positive Hour* is a bleak view of life at the sharp end for a social worker



OPERA

Covent Garden gives British singers a chance to dazzle in the new cast of *Così fan tutte*

Cheers for the home side

TO ITS great credit the Garden is using the second cast for the current *Così* to give young and mainly home-grown singers a chance to show their paces. When, if ever, did we have three Englishmen together at the Opera House as Ferrando, Guglielmo and Alfonso? It probably looked a bit of risk, but it turns out to be one well worth taking.

Timothy Robinson and William Dazeley slide easily into the laid-back mid 1900s Armani chic of Jonathan Miller's production. Mozart's two officers could be a couple of derivatives dealers as they arrogantly strike their fidelity bet with Alfonso. And when they return as louche "Albanians" there is a contemporary feel that they arrive fresh from a little pyramid selling.

Robinson, in his first major role for the company, shows a graceful and brightly focused tenor as Ferrando. *Tradito, schernito, com-*

OPERA
Così fan tutte
Covent Garden

ing towards the end of a vocally taxing evening, found him short of stamina, but he recovered to make his conquest of Fiordiligi as eloquent as it was persuasive. William Dazeley made a last-minute appearance on opening night to replace an indisposed Bo Skovhus, as Rodney Milnes reported, and his Guglielmo is quite big enough for the Garden. David Wilson-Johnson's first Alfonso is disarmingly British, a manipulative old buffer given to outbursts of misogyny as he watches the kids play games he gave up years ago.

Leah-Marian Jones was the best of the women as a Dorabella who for once is blonde and fluffy as well as flirtatious. The "Heart Duet" with Guglielmo showed the advantage of having fresh young voices toying with one another.

The German soprano Melanie Diener made her house debut as Fiordiligi, despite an announcement of indisposition (unspecified). It could well have been a throat infection because her dark tones made her sound the mezzo in the cast. Understandably, *Per pietà* was taken very gingerly — and slowly — but she got through without mishap. Sandra Zeltzer's voice is not yet large enough for this house.

Dietfried Bernet was on much better terms with the orchestra than in *Don Giovanni* earlier this season. He would not have given his cast of debutants more understanding support.

JOHN HIGGINS

● BBC2 is broadcasting *Così fan tutte* live on Saturday at 7pm

MUSICAL: Rodney Milnes talks to Francesca Zambello about her new Kurt Weill production

Bold lines never out of fashion

The canniest devil's advocate would have a tough (and entertaining) time with Francesca Zambello — she has all the answers, and she believes them. But perhaps one such is needed to question her about her latest assignment here, Moss Hart's and Kurt Weill's *Lady in the Dark*.

She is known here mainly as an opera producer — the Olivier Award-winning *Khovanshchina* for ENO, a spectacular arena *Tosca* at Earl's Court, and a *Billy Budd* at Covent Garden in which she dealt with the English class system as probably only an outsider could. But both at home in America and in Ireland she has worked extensively in the straight theatre, so this "musical play" is a neat engagement for her.

There are a number of "firsts" about *Lady*. It was Hart's first play detached from George S. Kaufman, with whom he had written a string of near-classics. It was Weill's first legitimate Broadway show, his previous musicals having been sort of "serious", and its phenomenal success in 1941 — 550 perfor-

mances on Broadway alone — won him the same sort of financial security *Salome* did Strauss. And Ira Gershwin was writing lyrics for the first time since the sudden death of his brother George. Everyone agrees that the Weill-Gershwin musical sequences are the work of genius, but what about Hart's play? Will it stand up today?

It's about Liza Elliott, a woman on the edge of a nervous breakdown. She's been the editor for ten years of the fashion magazine *Allure*, which was more or less given to her by her indecently rich and married sugar-daddy. She has a Beatrice-and-Benedick relationship with the advertising manager. Add a Hollywood film star in search of a mother substitute, and the news that sugar-daddy is getting a divorce, and Liza is off to the shrink. Hart had been in analysis for years, and had his own psychoanalyst write a preface to the published text.

The play moves between the magazine offices and the analyst's couch, and the music is confined to three extended fantasy or dream sequences. "The music is the inside

of Liza's mind," Zambello says. "It's a sequence of four one-act plays and three one-act operas, and they go A-B-A-B-A. The music is the unconscious world, the spoken lines the conscious one, and at the end they come together in *My Ship*, a little song that marries those two worlds."

Part of the score's genius is the way the super-smart, Broadway-witty dream sequences dissolve into nightmares, with the opening phrase of *My Ship* woven into the musical fabric, so that when the song is finally heard in full, unlocking a childhood trauma, the audience's relief is almost as great as Liza's.

How far has feminism brought us since 1941?

Yes, but in the context of Weill's American output, from the pacifist musical *Johnny Johnson* via *Street Scene* to *Lost in the Stars*, why are we supposed to care about this overprivileged, pampered woman? Zambello cites the movies of Woody Allen. "His people are the intellectual, elitist class of New York. You meet them, you say, 'OK, he's going through this midlife,

menopausal male crisis and having an affair', and you think this isn't a story to care about, but when you watch the movie you're either hysterical with laughter or reduced to a puddle of tears. Fifty-six years ago, Moss Hart was doing the same thing."

Nor will Zambello countenance the idea of the subject-matter being dated. "It's absolutely contemporary. It's about a woman whose professional life and personal life are in crisis, and part of the reason is that she's at the top of her profession. That seems to be a constant trauma for today's woman at the top. How far has feminism brought us since 1941? Three steps forwards and six steps back. The ceiling has been raised, and turned into glass — women can only go so high."

Setting the action in the offices of a fashion magazine is, of course, significant. "In 1941 that was a world where women could be successful and empowered. One of the characters is based on Diana Vreeland, then fashion editor of *Harper's Bazaar*. Fashion was be-

The Lyttelton Theatre
Lady in the Dark
2.30pm & 7.30pm



Francesca Zambello tackles the Moss Hart, Kurt Weill and Ira Gershwin musical *Lady in the Dark*

ginning to evolve as an industry, and Condé Nast brought more than just fashion to the masses. He made people in Iowa aware of Picasso."

The cynically hardnosed may find some of Hart's text too close to cliché, but then one man's cliché is another man's eternal truth, and some of the one-liners certainly have an "ouch" attached ("You have magazines instead of babies"). Zambello is prepared for this. "If the director creates a world where you believe the characters would say things that look like clichés, then they aren't clichés any more."

A psychoanalyst has been to rehearsals to advise on techniques both then and now, and Alexandra

Shulman, the editor of *UK Vogue*, has also been invited. "What was great was that we were wondering how Liza could get so far so young, and here's Alex, a mega-power woman in her thirties, for five years editor of a multimillion-dollar Condé Nast publication." But not, Zambello hastens to add, given to her by a sugar-daddy.

Do some of the analytical processes sound a little too pat today? "It's funny how the text comes alive. Everything may seem more obvious to us today than in 1941, but people's lives are still destroyed by their mothers, and if we think we know all about it, then why's everybody still lying down on a couch?"

Comparative intimacy should help. The Broadway *Lady* had a huge budget, a cast of 50 and a stage crew of 40. Zambello has 19 "wonderful British actors, who you'd never think would be in a musical", and they have to work hard, with even more doubling of roles between office and fantasy sequence than in the original. The cast is led by Maria Friedman in the role created by Gertrude Lawrence — so the music should look after itself — and Zambello's prime challenge is "to make the book as good as the music".

● *Lady in the Dark* opens at the National Theatre, South Bank, SE1 (0171-938 2252) on Tuesday

Sing it again, afresh

THE instinctive reaction to seeing Weslia Whitfield carried on to the stage is a well-meaning but patronising surge of compassion. Paralyzed below the waist after being shot by a teenage thug 20 years ago, the San Francisco vocalist has no need of sympathy. She is quite simply too gifted a performer for that.

Tony Bennett and the cabaret wunderkind Michael Feinstein have both signed up to her fan club, but until now London audiences have had no opportunity to hear her in person. She will have made many more converts by the end of the week.

Her technique is so sound and understated that it is rendered almost invisible. While others choose to approach show tunes as a pretext

CABARET

Weslia Whitfield
Pizza on the Park

for unremitting high-wire virtuosity, she takes a more intimate course. Lerner and Loewe's *Brigadoon* showstopper *Almost Like Being in Love* sounded all the more effective for not being oversold, Las Vegas fashion.

Whitfield allowed the words to speak for themselves. A lesser artist might have risked lapsing into perfectly enunciated but emotionally sterile poses. Yet her subtle shading of accents and the thoughtful juxtaposition of moods — from the wry satire of cult composer Dave Frishberg to the unabashed romance of *Ev'ry Time We Say Goodbye* — made this a particularly stimulating and witty journey through the American songbook.

Clearly a devotee of verses, she used the opportunity to sidle into *The Very Thought Of You* and *This Can't Be Love*. Mike Greensill's arrangements for piano and Simon Woolf's double-bass played a crucial role throughout, generating little eddies of rhythm and subtle counter-melody beneath her serene voice. It was ironic that she opened with a languorous exploration of *I've Heard That Song Before*. Whitfield's achievement lies in convincing her listeners that the very opposite is true.

CLIVE DAVIS

THEATRE: Irony underlines a pair of one-act musicals. Plus, a bleak look at social ills

Bittersweet cocktail with quite a kick

IF THE overemphatic title suggests that someone is being ironic about love, that would accurately reflect the authors' intentions. But the more obvious reason for the repetition is that Barry Harman and Keith Herrmann are working in an unusual genre. They have created two one-act musicals, the first based on a short story by that arch-cynic, Schnitzler, the other an updating of a play by his almost equally acid contemporary, Jules Renard.

The French dramatist's *Pain de Ménage*, or *Household Bread*, is not much known in Britain; but it was described by the great producer and theatrical innovator André Antoine as "a masterpiece worthy of taking its place alongside the most celebrated pieces in the repertoire of the Comédie Française". Librettist Harman and composer Herrmann's foray into the bittersweet is more venturesome than anybody encountering

Romance, Romance
Gielgud

Steven Dexter's enjoyably unpretentious production would suspect.

In the Schnitzler a wealthy roué and a successful courtesan, weary of the sexual rondo in laid-back Vienna, each decide to look for love in simpler places. Mark Adams's Alfred disguises himself as a poor poet, Caroline O'Connor pretends to be a shopgirl, and the inevitable proceeds to happen. They meet, fall for each other, but cannot long sustain a joint spree in the pastoral backwoods. It's the sort of spot Cézanne might have wished to sketch, which is why I sleep for hours at a stretch. "There's relief in their joint discovery of the truth, not least because they can at last admit that their love will be temporary."

In the Americanised Renard, both performers



All-round talent: Caroline O'Connor and Mark Adams

swap period finery for chequered pants. This time, they are Sam and Monica, platonic friends who begin late at night to admit their boredom with their trusting spouses — "at this hour Lennie could sleep through sex and frequently does" — yet cannot

take the next step: the emotional stakes are just too high. The musical originated in the New York of 1988, a place and time when those mixing bittersweet cocktails were apt to add more sweet than bitter. That shows in the poorly handled ending of the Renard

— Monica's angry disappointment evaporates like a puddle in summer — and in the pleasantly unacerbic tunes that accompany the Schnitzler. Moreover the show hasn't the informal, intimate feel it reportedly had when it received its British premiere at the tiny Bridewell in September.

But as Adams and O'Connor swished or padded round the stage, followed by their dancing alter egos or watched by their unseen spouses, I found myself succumbing to their spell. He is a nice, relaxed actor-singer, she an all-round talent who more than fulfils the promise she recently showed in *Mack and Mabel*. I don't often go in for anointing the stars of tomorrow, but her bad-luck face and sly sense of fun force my hand. Here's a performer who will surely delight us for years.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Give up and move on

The Positive Hour
Hampstead

this bleak conclusion need not be drawn from her play, her central character discovers many reasons to consider it the best and fearful choice.

She is Miranda, a social worker whose perennially difficult client is a single parent in love with a violent boyfriend. How supportive Margot Leicester's Miranda is, how concerned to show positive courses of action to Julia Lane's dolefully sullen Paula, how gently, encouragingly patient, and how maddening.

Another of her clients is young Nicola (Kate Ashfield, naively gushing), trying to make a life for herself away from her reprehensible dad. There is also Emma, a close friend, divorced but still going to bed with her

husband's coat. "My clients' lives make ours look like heaven," she tells her husband. "Sure," he replies, but since he is played by Robin Soans, unrivalled for the skill with which he can show us disaffected, absurdly self-questioning males, we can be sure that trouble also looms on the home front.

The scenes are set in Miranda's office, her own home, another home where *Pani Love's* finally adventurous Emma first tastes the thrills of rubbern bondage, and one brief interlude of country calm. Julia

McCowan's design, while keeping the foreground unchanged, alters what we see behind it — bookcases, sculpture, treescapes — and so swiftly that Max Stafford-Clark's direction can make the progress of the characters flow smoothly through the play, and easily accommodate the shifts from real distress to bizarrely comic confrontations.

It is a comic play, resting on the sad possibility that what Miranda criticises in others as "giving up", and tries to counter with optimistic thought, may truly be "moving on". Leicester introduces a poignant tremor to her voice as this fear surfaces. Social concern is today not so easy to fulfil in action. Alas. Hence the oddly old-fashioned look of that arm-bending poster.

JEREMY KINGSTON

Now EMI Classics celebrates her Lasting Inspiration with a unique 2 volume collection.

compact disc **12.99** each

Jacqueline du Pré

A Lasting Inspiration - Volumes 1 and 2 available now

Sale and date: 12.9.97

Piccadilly Kensington Kingston Bayswater Glasgow Birmingham Dublin
 100 Tottenham Court Road 100 Kensington High Street 100 Victoria Road 100 Bayswater Road 100 Glasgow Road 100 Birmingham Road 100 Dublin Road
 Tel: 020 7734 7500 Tel: 020 7734 7500 Tel: 020 7734 7500 Tel: 020 7734 7500 Tel: 020 7734 7500 Tel: 020 7734 7500 Tel: 020 7734 7500
 All stores open late on Sundays

You must remember this

Sexual abuse of children by adults is a betrayal of trust and a particularly nasty form of exploitation of the weak by the strong. Recent disclosures of "paedophile rings" exchanging information about the availability of children for sexual exploitation and parading their tastes on the Internet have rightly shocked the British public. There is little doubt that the actual incidence of childhood seduction has been underestimated until recently, although no one knows the exact figures.

But, especially in the United States, the pendulum has swung so far in the opposite direction that sexual abuse in childhood is now frequently invoked by dubious therapists as the original cause of almost every form of adult unhappiness. When those seeking help for their problems cannot remember sexual abuse occurring in their childhood, they are told that they have repressed the memory of it, and that, during therapy, they will undoubtedly recall it. They are also encouraged to believe that, by recapturing these painful memories, they will purge themselves of the trauma they have suffered, and return to mental health.

A situation is thus created in which it is in the interest of both patient and therapist that sexual abuse is recalled, whether or not this actually occurred. Given the inherent unreliability of memory, and the vulnerability to suggestion which cannot be avoided by anyone who becomes a patient receiving psychotherapy, it is not surprising that many patients recall sexual abuse which may never have taken place.

Pendergrast's book is the most detailed exploration of the "False Memory Syndrome" which I have read. Pendergrast was himself accused of sexually abusing his two daughters, and has entirely lost touch with them on this account. He was so shaken by their accusations that he began to doubt his own integrity; but his detailed investigation into the phenomena of memory restored his faith in himself. "My only real defence is the truth, I didn't sexually abuse my children."

Anthony Storr
VICTIMS OF MEMORY
Incest Accusations and Shattered Lives
By Mark Pendergrast
HarperCollins, £14.99
ISBN 0 00 255684 7

to nothing. In any case, there can be no absolute safeguards. A well-qualified, formerly respected Harvard psychiatrist shocked his colleagues a few years ago by publishing a book in which he asserted that many of his patients had been abducted and sexually interfered with by aliens.

There is evidence to show that it is not difficult to implant false memories into the minds of normal people. Memory is more unreliable than is generally realised. For example, many people recall striking or amusing incidents from childhood. But do they really remember them, or do they remember what their parents told them? It is often impossible to be sure. As one psychologist wrote: "In the final

analysis, memory isn't like reading a book; it's like writing a book from fragmentary notes."

Yet "recovered memory" therapists claim that detailed, accurate memories of traumatic sexual events are hidden from the conscious mind, preserved intact by the mechanism of repression and can be disinterred by a variety of therapeutic measures. There is no evidence that such massive repression ever takes place. In fact, those who have been sexually abused as children usually recall their experiences only too vividly, and often wish that they could forget them.

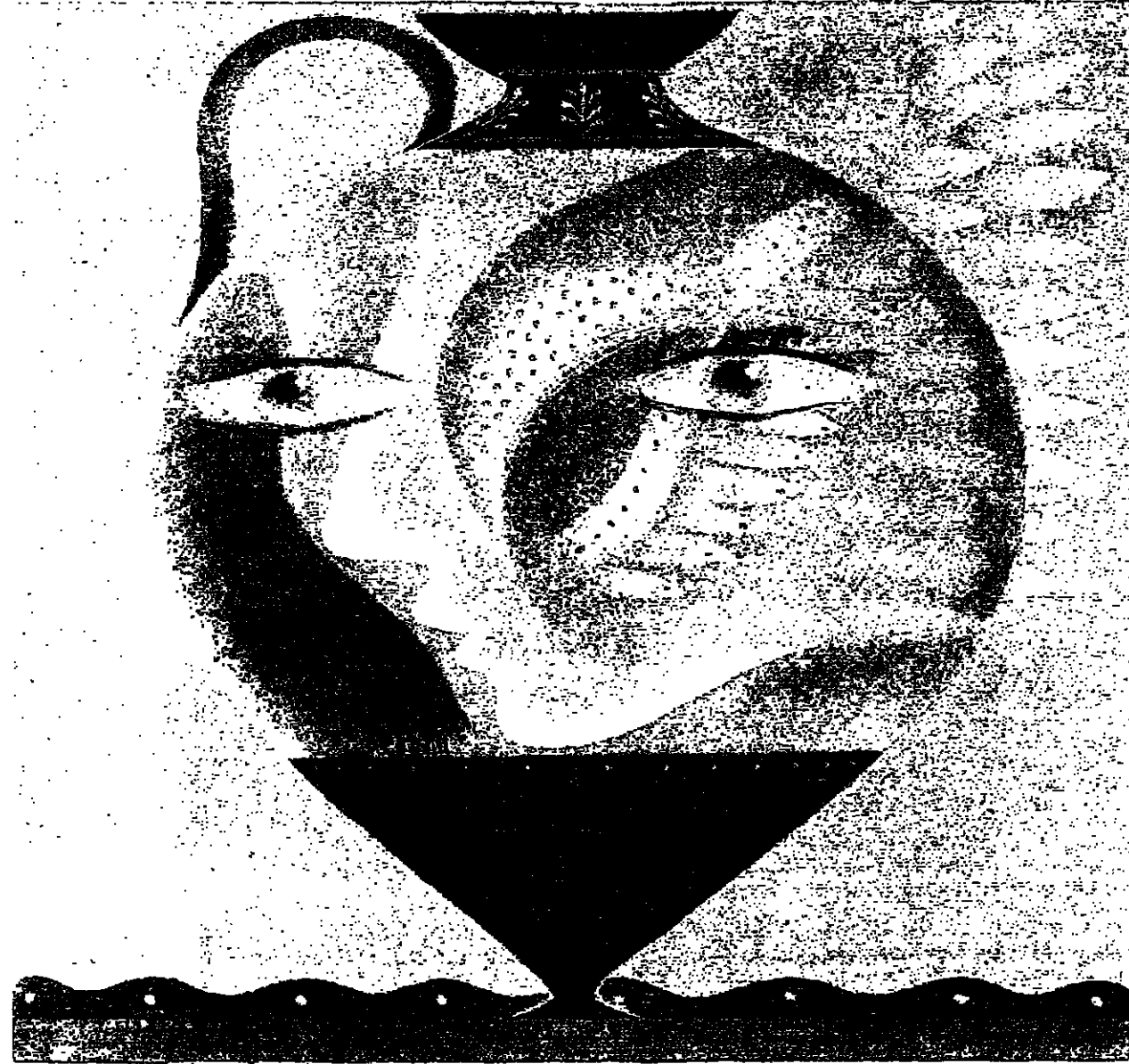
So many families have been disrupted by false accusations that "False Memory" Associations exist in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, The Netherlands, Britain and the United States. These groups both investigate the problems raised and counsel those who have suffered in the way described by the author of this book. I commend Pendergrast's courage and objectivity, as well as the thoroughness of his research. I doubt whether any book of greater importance will be published in 1997.

Tale that bowls along

Tibor Fischer's latest novel is all about love, and is narrated by an antique bowl. Inanimate but not impartial, it charts women's amorous experiences — what they want and what they get, rarely one and the same. Men are condemned as pretty inanimate themselves, or irredeemable fools. Their infidelity is so quotidian that suspicion is cast even on the faithful, who then join in, having nothing to lose. "Like many old men in the grave up to their noses, he is still chewed by lechery" — is a typical sentiment.

Fischer himself is a collector of sorts — of languages: anarchic, jacked-up stuff. It is his gymnastic displays, rather than say, plot, that you pay your money for. His style is to liberate vocabulary from meaning ("Nisaba zani, as we used to dubbar in Lagash"); use playful alliteration ("offices their offices"); turn nouns into verbs (a lorry "monsters" up). As the dish puts it: "I'm the original, so genuine even the genuine ones look like copies."

This highly ubiquitous dish, circa 843 BC, is our eyes and ears in the apartment of art dealer Rosa. To her it "grasses" on minimalist epistles from antiquity. These stories are fabulist and worldly in nature, and being on the theme of love link contextually to Rosa's own, often surreal



quests for the right man. Her failures in the boyfriend department contrast with those of her uninvited house guest Nikki. Hooker, drug addict, and accomplished liar, all Nikki wants is to be "the girl wrapped in boys" having long given up on love's false trail; and with it, morality too. She loots all Rosa's worldly possessions

and creates havoc when the hired assassins of former "floridas" — one-night stands — come to try to kill her. The two women develop a tenuous alliance in trying to find the unfathomable. Irony and humour is their defence against harm. Tragedy is reinterpreted as comedy.

Ideas in art can and do get appropriated. Take Odile, for instance, who, the collector collector explains, wrote *Oliver Twist* and *Madame Bovary* in 1834 only to be pipped to the publishers by Dickens and Flaubert. But style, like Fischer's, is less imitable. The splintered cerebral poetry that marked out his previous novel, *The Thought Gang*, is evident here too. His personal signature, like that of Iain Sinclair, Martin Amis ("I don't want to write a sentence any other guy

Russell Celyn Jones

THE COLLECTOR COLLECTOR
By Tibor Fischer
Secker and Warburg, £12.99
ISBN 0 436 30436 3

can write") has sustained itself over the oeuvre.

The limitation of such clamorous voices sets in when the singer overwhelms the song. Fischer is a satirist whose Babelian brilliance sometimes eclipses sense. "If an ubarum, a naptarum or a mudum wants to sell his beer, the sabatum shall sell the beer for him". And the Oooos that pepper the text ("Oooorotund", etc.) may be appropriate for a narrator with a cylindrical orifice, but it could just be a

character sticking on Fischer's keyboard.

The Collector Collector's epicentre is friendship between two women, but the book's strength resides in a simple theme working in counterpoint with complex language. Fischer has the intellect and wit of Julian Barnes, who had a similar triumph with *A History of the World in 10 1/2 Chapters*.

There is a strict and serious hand behind the pen here too. Fischer's narrator has a big mouth, but also a big heart. It makes "interventions in fleshy fortunes" by changing its shape, mantis-like, when a favoured owner gets into a spot of bother with violence. As it says, in a moment of didactic tenderness: "It is the champions who know nothing of life. Winning is not life, fighting for third place is."

Robert Shepherd traces the road to new Labour



Keep smiling: Tony Blair with Wallace and Gwendolyn from Nick Park's *A Close Shave*.

Everyone's invited this time

Matt Wright and Tony Carter's illustrated history of the Labour Party offers an admirably clear and informative guide to one of the most remarkable political sagas of the 20th century. *The People's Party* is a godsend for readers who want to familiarise themselves quickly with the main events and personalities in Labour's history, but who hitherto have been deterred by the arcane tones that confront them. The book includes a brief chronology and a well-chosen guide to further reading.

Readers who are well acquainted with Labour's history will welcome the incorporation in one book of so many evocative illustrations. The reproduction in large print of key quotations by leading politicians and thinkers — among them Sydney Webb, R. H. Tawney, Clem Attlee and Tony Crosland — demonstrates the underlying intellectual force and humanity that have sustained Labour even in its darkest hours.

The authors steer a skilful path through Labour's many convulsions and contortions, but at times their prose becomes too spare and the passion at the heart of Labour's turbulent history is sacrificed. On the whole, they have produced a balanced history, but their last two chapters offer a Blairite interpretation of Labour's 18-year exclusion from office. Wright co-edited an earlier book with Gordon Brown and is the MP for Cannock, once the seat of the firebrand socialist Jennie Lee, while Carter is a tutor at the University of York and a prospective parliamentary candidate.

The People's Party charts Labour's history from the meeting of socialists and trade unionists on February 27, 1900, that established the Labour Representation Com-

mittee in order to increase working-class representation in Parliament, to the party's recent rebirth as new Labour. The treatment of this latest twist as being unproblematic is likely to annoy old Labour's dwindling band, although the latter will find some consolation in the early chapters that offer a timely reminder, splendidly illustrated, of their party's class origins. The authors are rewarded for their uncritical account of the modernisers' triumph with an appreciative introduction by Tony Blair. Blair contributes one of the book's more intriguing in-

THE PEOPLE'S PARTY
By Tony Wright and Matt Carter
Thames & Hudson, £18.95
ISBN 0 500 0768 9

sights by revealing that a portrait of Keir Hardie, one of the chief architects of the new Labour Party of nearly a century ago, hangs on the wall of his office. For darts practice, perhaps? — although such a pastime is probably too plebeian for new Labour. The image of Hardie reproduced by Wright and Carter is that of a working-class radical, peering from the front page of an early pamphlet. He is a dead ringer for the left-wing MP and *bête noire* of new Labour, Jeremy Corbyn.

Yet Blair and Hardie may have more in common than meets the eye. After all, Hardie's pamphlet was entitled, *Young Men in a Hurry*. He wrote it to help the average politician to calculate whether or not the Independent Labour Party, founded in 1893, "was likely to prove permanent or is merely the outcome of some temporary aberration which will pass away as the years bring

wisdom". Whether or not Blair's new Labour will also be the forerunner of a lasting realignment in British politics is a question that is beyond this book's scope.

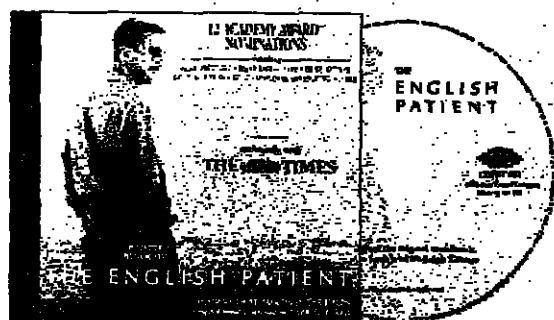
New Labour is the phoenix that rose from the ashes after Margaret Thatcher had demolished old Labour's trade union and local government citadels. The "radical modernisers," as Wright and Carter describe Blair and his allies, have been better depicted as "neo-Thatcherites", by John Biffen in, of all places, *Tribune* — political cross-dressing is clearly the vogue. Blair and Brown have accepted Thatcher's far-reaching privatisations and her extension of means-testing in the welfare state, Nigel Lawson's 40 per cent top rate of income tax, and the Government's spending limits. Now even the burning desire of Tony Crosland to abolish the (expensive deleted) grammar schools is abandoned.

Wright and Carter appear to have airbrushed from their picture Hugh Gaitskell's Eurosceptic *cri de coeur* at his last party conference, in which he gave warning that British membership of the EEC would mean "the end of a thousand years of history". And although they acknowledge the fragmentation of Labour's working-class support after 1970, they offer no adequate explanation. But the authors remind us that Peter Mandelson, the architect of Labour's new image, is the grandson of Herbert Morrison. Once the stalwart of Labour's old-style right wing, Morrison defined socialism as being whatever a Labour government does. His grandson would never allow anything as dangerous as revolutionary to be said about new Labour.

Robert Shepherd's Enoch Powell: A Biography is published by Hutchinson, priced £25.

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

A FREE CD



Readers of *The Times* are offered a FREE sampler CD featuring four tracks: *The English Patient*, *Rupert Bear*, *Convento Di Sant' Anna* and *As Far As Florence*. The original soundtrack has been nominated for an Academy Award and recently won the Golden Globe Award for Best Original Score. The compilation CD is interspersed with extracts from the MacMillan audio book of *The English Patient*, which is abridged by Michael Ondaatje himself. The extracts are read by Ralph Fiennes.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE CD
Collect four of the six free CD tokens appearing in *The Times* this week. Send them, together with a 50p stamp and the application form below. The offer ends on Tuesday, April 1, 1997.

THE ENGLISH PATIENT FREE CD

Please send a FREE CD of *The English Patient*. I enclose 4 tokens and a 50p stamp to cover postage. Post to: BVCD, Unit A, 250 Western Avenue, London W3 9ZC.

Mr/Mrs/Other _____ Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Only 1 free CD per household. Offer applies to UK & Eire only and ends April 1, 1997. Please allow 28 days for delivery.

CHANGING TIMES

Making the sound of sense

For a time in the mid-1980s, when his poem *A Letter* won the Arvon Competition, when he and Blake Morrison edited the *Penguin Book of Contemporary British Poetry* together, and when Penguin published *Dangerous Play*, his early selected poems, Andrew Motion looked to be in the absolute mainstream of British poetry of the time: writing poems that were talky and oblique, working on a fusion of image, narrative and voice, steaming the clothes of prose fiction.

Since then, having tried — and then thrown in — his hand at fiction himself, then rapidly becoming an experienced biographer (a triple header of the Lambert family, his Larkin, a shiny new Keats out in a few months), poetry has changed for him, and his own poetry has changed too. One couldn't any longer call him typical. He has left the mainstream and is hacking his way into his own undergrowth.

His books now tend to be longer, and to contain fewer, longer poems (his last volume, *The Price of Everything*, just two). They like to accommodate prose — the second part of *Salt Water*, entitled *Sailing to Italy*, is his prose journal of taking a sailing boat to Rome,



Andrew Motion: poems that reveal his temperament

Michael Hofmann
SALT WATER
By Andrew Motion
Faber, £7.99
ISBN 0 571 19019 7

following in the watery footsteps of the dying Keats in 1820. And the verse in it is pared into stout and serviceable forms: rhymed couplets and quatrains, blank verse. Writing about Keats has had an effect too — as writing on Philip Larkin did previously. There are soul-landscapes like *The Clearing*, a poem about

the Thames like Shelley's *Alastor*.

What you get in these new poems is a peculiar collision — again, not unlike the Romanics — between matter and manner. It's as though writing so much prose in the past ten years has made Motion bigger and bolder and bluffer. He is unfussy and plain-spoken, even impatient, no longer willing or able to wait for the poetic formulation or image. The poems begin loudly and confidently: "This is a long time ago," "I would like to make it clear," "I won't say much about it now." But at the same time, these robust poems

are about ghosts: those of Keats, of the poet's mother, of friends who died in the sinking of the *Marchioness* and of cancer.

They become that strange thing: an almost impersonal pursuit of Motion's innermost feelings of sadness and depression; an unapologetic venting of his own temperament, both in the poems and in the journal, when, for instance, in a flat calm off Trafalgar, he is gripped by a fury: "I want to stick a marlin spike up his arse and throw him to the shark which has just idled past, his fin slick and alert."

As those brilliant adjectives show, Motion has not lost or given up all his finesse by any means: a rainy day has intermittent "squirts" of hot sunshine, an aeroplane "drenches" the boat with its noise, a pigeon "stamps" in its bowls of water. But *Salt Water* is characterised less by such subtleties of tone and observation than by insistence and volume. "I love it," Motion writes of the river, or, in a poem about a dress: "I hate — I really hate — to think of some other bum/ swinging those heavy flower-heads left to right." It is meant, I think, to be Frost's "the sound of sense", but I hear too much the grinding of gears and spinning of tyres.

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

SPECIAL OFFER

SAVE £4 ON ONCE A JOLLY BAGMAN

MEMOIRS OF ALISTAIR McALPINE

Only £16 (RRP £20) with free p&p for the UK

- You can also buy ANY English language book currently in print
- FREE UK p&p ● Delivery in 7-10 days, subject to availability
- 24-hour service. Staff available 8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday, 9am to 4pm Saturday, and 10am to 4pm Sunday.

CALL: 0345 660 916 CALLS CHARGED AT LOCAL RATE

Call +44 990 134 459 from overseas and the Republic of Ireland. Fax +44 1326 374 888. e-mail: bookshop@the-times.co.uk

Or post coupon to: News Books, FREEPOST, PO Box 345, Falmouth, TR11 2BR. Please send me these books (order additional titles on a separate sheet):

City _____ Title/Author _____ Total Price _____

Surname _____ Initial _____ Title _____

Address _____

Postcode _____ Tel _____

I enclose cheque/PO(s) payable to NEWS BOOKS for a total of £ _____ Please write your name and address on the back of all cheques. Debit my Mastercard/Visa/AmEx. Switch or Delta account no: _____

Print Name _____ Expiry Date _____

Signature _____ Date _____

For Republic of Ireland and overseas orders add 20% to total book cost. Delivery is by airmail in Europe, surface to rest of world. (Airmail outside Europe add 35%). The suggested retail price of a book can be subject to change by the publisher without prior notice. Tick box if you prefer not to receive details of other offers ☐

He did amuse her, at least

Roy Strong on Queen Victoria's beloved Prince Consort, architect of the modern monarchy

Once went on holiday with a man whose wife was German. I still recall my amazement when he opened his suitcase revealing, pasted within its lid, a list drawn up by her giving him precise instructions as to what he was to wear each day. This was not the only instance of her well-meant Germanic thoroughness that came to mind as I read the life of Prince Albert. What is it about this younger son of an impoverished German duchy which produces a kind of instant mental switch-off?

Here was a consort seemingly ideal for an age, a Victorian new man who not only loved his wife but was also loyal to her, who went on to educate her, who, in addition, was unstintingly devoted to good causes and good works, to education, science, technology and the arts — besides having a commitment to improving the lot of the lower orders. But yet he never captures the heart or the imagination. And that is not because he has been tarnished by a posthumous verdict, the result of two wars against Germany in this century, for it was a view that was firmly subscribed to within his own lifetime.

Albert of Saxe-Coburg-Gotha was the younger son of the ruler of a duchy half the size of the Isle of Wight, one of those tiny Thuringian states which had produced a long line of Hanoverian consorts. His father was no model prince and his mother vanished into exile for an indiscretion. It was an unhappy childhood, but Albert was precocious and responded to a formidable education. The Coburgs were not only bright but pushy. Uncle Leopold had been married to George IV's daughter, Charlotte, and after her demise became King of the Belgians.

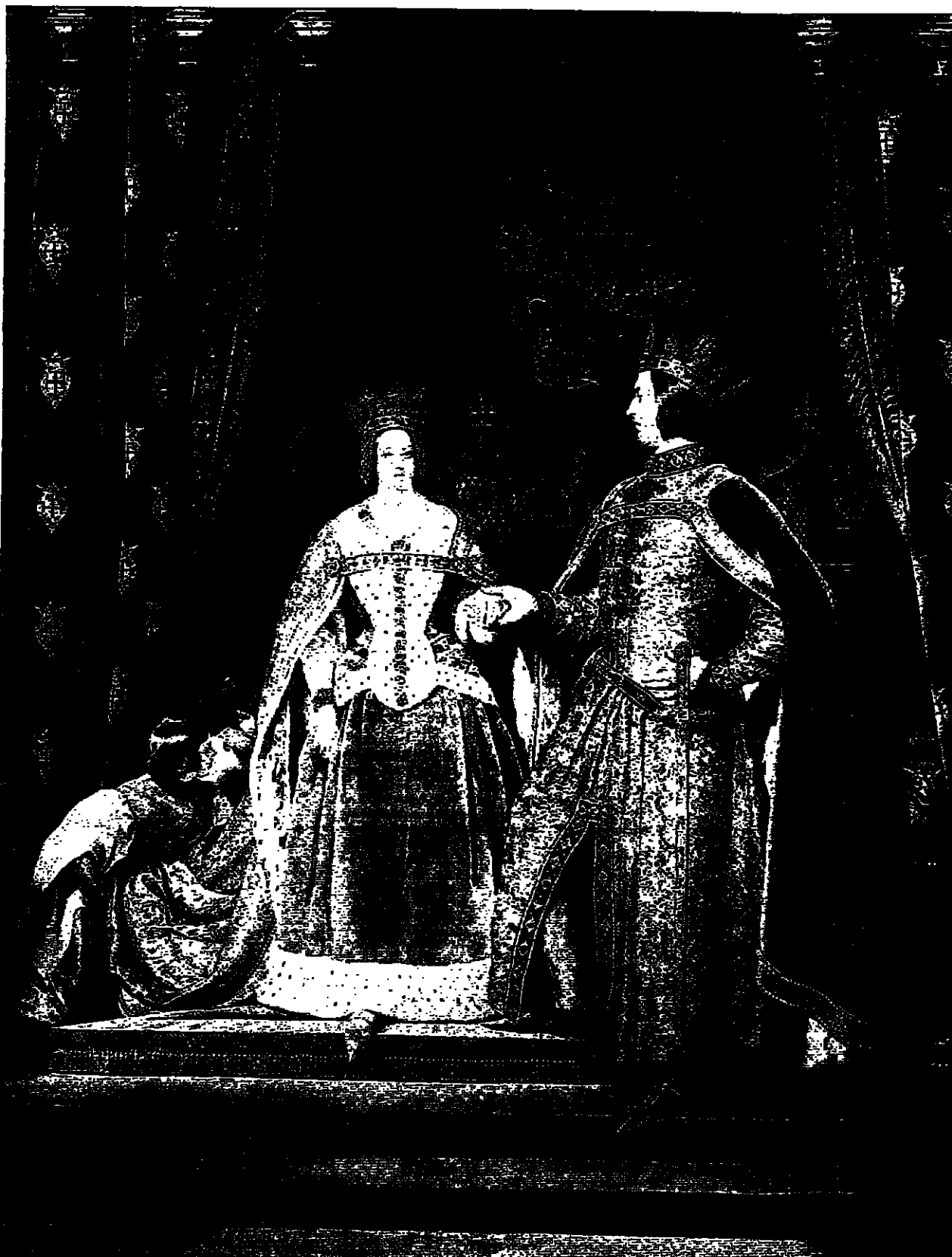
By 1836 it was clear that his niece, Victoria, would succeed and that she would need a husband. What no one could have predicted was that she would be besotted by him; epitomised by the famous line in her journal: "It was with some emotion that I beheld Albert — who is beautiful." It is clear that he must have been wonderful in bed, for even in that reticent age the Queen

made no secret of the fact that his early demise had curtailed these delights. For the rest of her life she had to make do with hugging his nightshirt. In his role as royal superstud nine children followed, and the Queen, who never had much of a head for business, let the Prince gradually take over the affairs of government. By the 1840s royal power had already been reduced to warning and advising, but Albert's preoccupation was to prevent any further erosion. Indeed, in foreign affairs he seems to have crossed the constitutional borderline with a passionate commitment to German unification.

The Prince Consort was certainly Albert the Good, hard-working to excess, dedicated and devoted, but he was also humourless, lacking the common touch and was never truly popular. The ability to delegate seems to have been totally missing, his time often being wasted on minutiae like designing the VC medal and hats for army officers. And he emerges as curiously friendless. That failure to evoke affection is reflected in the fact that he was accorded the title Prince Consort by the Queen, Victoria realising that Parliament would never grant it.

But he did undoubtedly change the face of the monarchy from being too often frivolous to being dull but worthy. Here came together what has kept his successors on the throne: the support of charities, the association with national enterprises, the honouring of heroes, the exemplary domestic life. To achieve that he isolated the Crown from the old upper classes, rendering it seemingly bourgeois. He also cultivated retreat — Balmoral and Osborne are monuments to that. Even today ministers have to grind their way to inaccessible areas of the island. And although his public persona emerges as being as chilly as one of the iron columns of his Crystal Palace, the Great Exhibition of 1851 — his child more than anyone else's — has come to symbolise the triumphs of an age.

Stanley Weintraub is a diligent and painstaking biographer and here it all is, but he is saddled with the problem that his hero falls short. This is a fine, well-researched life but, alas, Albert fails to live up to the prince of romance of Laurence Houseman's plays which Weintraub quotes from time to time. The author also suffers from the deficiency that being American he writes from outside rather than in. Beautiful Albert may have been, but he was also stiff and unbending. Already running to seed by his early thirties, balding, puff-faced and portly, it is interesting to speculate what would have happened had he lived to a ripe old age. We would at least have been spared all those statues which his widow spent her time unveiling. The British have always been chary of the interfering consorts of their Queens from Philip II of Spain down to Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. And in that perhaps they've been right.



Landseer's portrait of Victoria and Albert, dressed as Queen Philippa and Edward III for a costume ball in 1842

Sir Roy Strong was Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum, 1978-87; his latest book, *The Story of Britain*, is published by Hutchinson, priced £15.

what would have happened had he lived to a ripe old age. We would at least have been spared all those statues which his widow spent her time unveiling. The British have always been chary of the interfering consorts of their Queens from Philip II of Spain down to Philip, Duke of Edinburgh. And in that perhaps they've been right.

Lover of both faith and reason

Roger Scruton admires a thinker who found salvation in philosophy

THE PHILOSOPHY OF PETER ABELARD
By John Marenbon
Cambridge University Press, £40
ISBN 0 521 55397 0



Abelard and his Héloïse

The philosopher Peter Abelard (1079-1142) will always be famous as the lover of Héloïse, and the greatest of love's victims, who was not granted even the escape-clause enjoyed by Tristan, Lancelot, Romeo and the thousand other men who have died for love while still able to make it. In his day, however, Abelard was more famous as a teacher of logic, and notorious less for his heretical doctrines. It is uncertain who wrote the letters between Abelard and Héloïse; but John Marenbon mounts a credible case for their authenticity.

What is certain is that Abelard was not merely the lover of his former pupil, but also her husband, and the father of her son. His castration, brought about by Héloïse's wicked guardian and uncle, caused Abelard to take up the monastic life. Thereafter he addressed many of his works to his wife, who at his request had become a nun. Héloïse rose to be prioress, as Abelard became abbot, but their story resides less in the religious quietus that they both finally achieved, than in its tumultuous beginnings.

Abelard wrote his own account of his misfortunes — the *Historia Calamitatum*. His purpose in doing so was not to dwell on his tragic loss but to put it behind him, so as to devote himself to the religious life. However, conflicts of doctrine and personality with the powerful St Bernard left him in danger of excommunication for heresy.

Christianity was not yet inoculated against the virus of philosophy, and Abelard, who was one of the first to construct a theological system based in Aristotelian logic — or what could be understood of Aristotelian logic, from the fragments then available — was less cautious than he might have been in his theological conclusions. He was a brilliant teacher who returned to teaching whenever the opportunity arose. And he was a remarkable thinker, who anticipated the Thomist attempt

to unite ancient philosophy and Christian religion. In an age dominated by educated clergy such a person was bound to be seen as a threat. Abelard's admiration for the pagan philosophers led him to find, in their writings, anticipations of the leading Christian doctrines. And he saw the ancient virtues as stages on the way to Christian salvation. Central to Abelard's ethics is another ancient idea: that man is distinguished from the rest of nature by his rationality. The rational being has free will, and with it the choice between salvation and damnation. The truths of religion must be perceivable to reason, if we are to believe them; philosophy must therefore show the rational basis even for the most daunting of religious ideas — such as the Trinity. Reason will tend of its own accord towards these religious ideas — and Abelard was comforted to find a version of the Trinity in Plato. John Marenbon has buried himself in Abelard's writings

and in the writings of his contemporaries, and produced what must be the most scholarly account to date of Abelard's ideas. Recent British philosophy has noticed Abelard not so much as a Christian theologian, still less as an icon of early medieval culture, but as a precursor of the "analytical" approach, which puts language and logic first. Being a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, where this approach began, Marenbon is heavily influenced by it. He emphasises Abelard's nominalism (his belief that only individuals exist, and that

universals, like the colour blue, are no more than words), his discussions of possibility and necessity, and the places where he anticipated recent developments in logic and the philosophy of language.

Many readers will find these topics rather dull, and I am not sure that Marenbon is himself entirely switched on by them. Still, this is a work of scholarship. The footnotes invade up to half of the page, and there are no jokes. I suppose that is the price you pay for a serious book on Abelard. Marenbon's account of the theology of free will and the problems of evil are well worth the effort required to get to them, and my only reservation concerns the author's nervous habit of looking over his shoulder at other scholars, acknowledging them whenever he can in a footnote. This seriously impedes the flow of the argument. Abelard was not so polite to those with whom he disagreed, partly because, unlike Marenbon, he was genuinely offended by the falsehood of their views.

And that, in the end, is the true reason for returning to medieval philosophy. For it was philosophy written in the heat of conviction, by people who thought that their salvation and their happiness depended on their conclusions. Marenbon awakens an intense longing for that kind of philosophy, largely because he does not provide it.

Fleas, lice and admen

Sir Tim Bell is a brilliant salesman, on behalf of himself as well as his clients, particularly Margaret Thatcher. She was, and is, for Bell what Irene Adler was for Sherlock Holmes, "the woman". Sir Tim (knighted in the Thatcher resignation Honours List) has graduated from being one of the main architects of the success of the original Saatchi and Saatchi to being the confidant and adviser to the rich and famous in times of trouble and stress. He is what would have been described as a man of business or a contact man, a superb fixer in that incestuous world of Tory businessmen and newspaper editors.

As such, Bell merits a biography, though he discouraged Mark Hollingsworth from writing this one. Hollingsworth has written several books on the seamy side of politics and an unauthorised study of Mark Thatcher, without question the most disliked person in the Thatcher circle. But this book is far from a hatchet job, though it lacks the balance that would have come from Bell's co-operation and there are several niggling inaccuracies, particularly on politics. Instances where Bell's advice did not work and details



The darlings of a glamorous crowd: Bell with Joan Collins in 1989 — he had compared her to another woman for whom he had admiration, Margaret Thatcher

of his conviction for indecent exposure in 1977, and his use of cocaine from then until the early 1980s, are included. But his cocaine problem was hardly a secret in the political and media world and is treated by Hollingsworth in a generally sympathetic way in the context of his personal stress at a time when he was falling out with the Saatchi brothers. He also acknowledges his happy family life now.

Indeed, Hollingsworth has in some ways fallen for Bell's outrageous and indiscreet charm, which one colleague says reminded him of "an extremely powdered and pampered courtesan". Bell has an ability to put the powerful at their ease and understood that the way to treat Margaret Thatcher was as a woman, flirting with her and making her laugh.

No one disputes the success of Lowe Bell Communications. But the question remains, what was Sir Tim Bell's contribution to politics? He was part of that group of Thatcher courtiers, also including Gor-

Peter Riddell
THE ULTIMATE SPIN DOCTOR
The Life and Fast Times of Tim Bell
By Mark Hollingsworth
Hodder & Stoughton, £20
ISBN 0 340 14071 1

don Reece, Maurice Saatchi, Alistair McAlpine, David Young and, on the fringes, Jeffrey Archer, who were mainly of service to her personally. Apart from Young, they had no influence on the development of Thatcherism. The real heavyweights of the Thatcher years were Keith Joseph as a prophet, Geoffrey Howe, Nigel Lawson and Norman Tebbit as policymakers, and Willie Whitelaw as the vital political engineer. After the departure of the latter and her falling out with Howe, Lawson and Tebbit, she was doomed. The courtiers, like Bell, never really understood this because they were besotted with her.

These courtiers all exaggerated the importance of advertising and of political campaigns. Most were involved in the entirely unnecessary panics which were regular features of the Thatcher elections. Hollingsworth quotes the scepticism of the redoubtable Sir Bernard Ingham, who was always suspicious of Bell's role and doubted the value of his advice, and of Nigel Lawson. In his memoirs, Lawson is dismissive of importance of campaigns and of paid advertising. Quoting Dr Johnson, he describes the relative contributions to the 1987 victory of the rival advertising agencies, butting for Mrs Thatcher's ear as of "a louse and a flea".

Sir Tim Bell and Lord Saatchi are involved again this time, in what may be the Last Hurrah for the old guard. But, as in previous campaigns, the election may depend less on advertising and fixing a few editors than on the public's verdict built up over several years — which even Sir Tim's charm cannot change.

NEW AUTHORS
PUBLISH YOUR WORK
ALL SUBJECTS CONSIDERED
Fiction, Non-Fiction, Biography, Religious, Poetry, Children's
AUTHORS WORLDWIDE WELCOME
WRITE OR SEND YOUR MANUSCRIPT TO
MINERVA PRESS
2 OLD BROMFORD ROAD, LONDON SW7 3DD

BRUNDA RICHARDSON BRUNDA FRICKER

...a gripping, all-time-deep, fast-paced, witty and...
...compulsively readable and...
...superbly acted...

BASED ON THE NOVEL BY CAROL SHIELDS

SWANN

A murder... A lie... A secret shared

STARTS TOMORROW EXCLUSIVE PRESENTATION

SHAFESBURY AVE

ADVANCE BOOKING 0181 970 6013

PROGS. DAILY 2.40 5.40 8.35

AUTHORS
Let Us Publish Your Book.
Most subjects considered including Religion, Biography, Children's Stories, Poems, Fiction and First Books.
AVON BOOKS (UK),
1, DOWDLE STATION,
485, BATHURST PARK ROAD,
LONDON SW11 4LR.

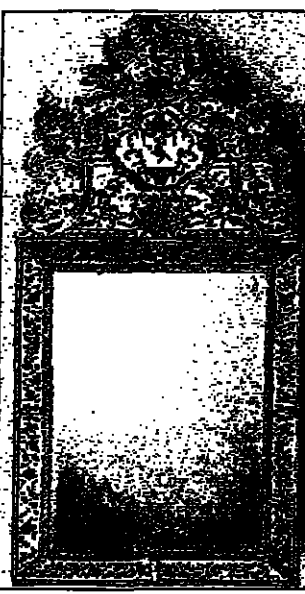
The French connection

THE profound influence on Europe of French furniture styles and techniques is apparent throughout the fair. An early 18th-century marquetry box by the German craftsman Johann Puchwiser is decorated in the Parisian Boule manner with tortoiseshell and mother-of-pearl (Blumka). One of the greatest German makers was David Roentgen, represented by a severely elegant Louis XVI mahogany commode with gilded-bronze mounts (Daxer & Marschall).

The sweeter mid-century rococo style shown in a Louis XV gilt-mounted marquetry desk by Francois Mondon (Gierhards) is echoed by a set of yellow lacquer Italian serpentine-backed Piedmontese chairs with original needlework covers (Pelham).

The English Palladian style is apparent from the architectural appearance of a George II mahogany cupboard attributed to William Hallett, about 1740 (Axel Vervoordt). The German architect Karl Friedrich Schinkel designed a large elm and mahogany secretaire made by Guillaume Wilhelm Dreusike, 1842 (Camoin-Demachy). Also in light-coloured marquetry, this

time in ash burl and amaranth and a decade or two earlier, from the France of Charles X, comes a set of furniture including sofas, chairs and a games table (N Ikodinovic).



Wooden mirror c. 1720, from Daxer & Marschall

Sturdy English pride will be aroused by the uncompromising shape and relatively simple decoration of an early 17th-century James I oak chest (Huntington). French

sensibilities will glow at the mannerist carving, associated with the School of Fontainebleau, of the figures on a late 16th-century walnut cupboard from the time of Henry II (J Zeberg).

Only a Chinese emperor could have possessed a large lacquer casket carved with dragons: it is from the Qianlong period, c. 1736-1795 (Ben Janssens).

PORCELAIN AND POTTERY: Overseas trade with China is illustrated by a pair of 18th-century Qing Dynasty porcelain candlesticks made in a shape derived from contemporary European silver examples (Luis Alegria). From the Tang dynasty, 618-907 AD, is a remarkable earthenware figure of an entertainer (Gisele Croes).

SILVER: Unmistakably English in style are three Queen Anne silver casters by Charles Adams, 1703 (Koopman) as, in its different way, is an oval George III silver-gilt tray by Benjamin Smith, 1804, with a wide border pieced and chased with grapes and leaves (S.J. Phillips).

DAVID COOMBS

Europe's premier fine art and antiques fair celebrates its tenth birthday next week.

Surely the biggest, certainly the best

Although the European Fine Art Fair at Maastricht is celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, its origins can be traced to 1975 when a series of fairs was launched in the Dutch city, with alternate years devoted solely to paintings or to antiques.

In 1985, a longer-established rival fair at Delft was discontinued and Maastricht's alternating events were merged into one annual fair. Then in 1988, the European Fine Art Foundation took over the event in what was, in effect, a buyout by the exhibitors — and at that point a regional fair became not only the leading European event but, for many, the world fair.

Maastricht, between Belgium and Germany with Luxembourg and France almost within view and London a convenient distance away, is the perfect location for what remains primarily a northern European fair. The picture section is dominated by the Dutch and German schools, with the French and British in attendance. (Richard Green, Johnny Van Haeften, Noortman and Marlborough

Fine Arts are among the dealers exhibiting). The love affair with the Orient carried on with the East Indian companies of Holland, Britain and France as intermediaries during the 17th and 18th centuries is evident among the porcelain and works of art as is the later Belgian fascination with African art.

The original 1975 picture fair brought together 29 dealers representing six countries. This year there are 167 exhibitors from 13 countries, and the simple division between fine and plastic arts has grown to seven categories: pictures, drawings and prints; antiques and works of art; textiles; antiquities; manuscripts, books and maps; jewellery; and 20th-century art.

The private view night brings together not just the rich, the very rich and the seriously rich, but museum curators, from around the world, scholars, dealers and more modest collectors. In contrast to a saleroom, where the auctioneer's opinion alone may govern attribution and few if any guarantees are given, every item at Maastricht comes from a leading

dealer and has been strictly vetted by peers, competitors and outside authorities.

Because of the northern bias, there are comparatively few Italian paintings on offer. But one man who will show some Italian works, including a portrait of a lady by Bernardino de' Conti (c.1470-1523), is Rob Smeets, a Dutchman with a gallery in Milan.

A Dutch painting which could symbolise the opening night of the fair has been brought back to Europe by Jack Kilgore of New York. It is *Village Wedding* by Jan Steen. The groom greets his fiancée at her house before they proceed to the church. Below is celebration, but up above her father and his notary scan the marriage contract.

The furniture on show is more varied than anyone used to national fairs might expect. English oak items brought by Huntington Antiques of Stow-on-the-Wold, Gloucestershire, and an elegant Ming piece shown by Grace Wu Bruce of Hong Kong, take their place with French, Italian, Dutch and Austro-German items.

Perhaps the most unexpected — but in many ways



Bernardino de' Conti's *Portrait of a Lady* (Rob Smeets)

welcome — stand is that of Andrew Bruce, the London wine consultant, whose offerings are works of art indeed. Those with shorter pockets need not be deterred by the finery on show. I have only

bought two items during the past ten years, but I consider both to have been bargains. I am also immensely the richer for my annual visits.

HUON MALLALIEU

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 0171 680 6807

TEFAF MAASTRICHT 1997

FAX:
0171 782 7703

NOORTMAN



Willem van de Velde the Younger
Leiden 1633-1707 London

'A calm sea'

Panel: 50.8 x 45.5 cm
Signed with initials

Stand 414. Stand tel. 00 (31-43) 3838711

40-41 Old Bond Street, London W1X 4HP. Telephone 0171-491 7284 Fax 0171-493 1570
Vrijthof 49, 6211 LE Maastricht, Holland. Telephone 043 3216745 Fax 043 3213899

ROBERT BOWMAN

Auguste Rodin
(French 1840-1917)
Le Penseur

TEFAF
MAASTRICHT
Stand No. 156

Gallery by appointment
London SW3
Tel: 0171 730 8057
Fax: 0171 259 9195

The Times will once again be publishing a June Fine Arts & Antiques Supplement.

For details call Shirley McGlynn on

0171 680 6892

or

0171 680 6801

WOLSELEY FINE ARTS LTD

Exhibiting 20th century works on paper at:
The European Fine Art Fair, Maastricht, 7 - 17/3
Works on Paper, The Armoey, New York, 6 - 9/3
Including: Bonnard, Bernard, Denis, Derain,
Dekker, Dufy, Gill, Holloway, Jones, Luce,
Marquet, Matisse, Metzinger, Van Miegheem, Picasso,
Roberts, Sironi, Spencer, Vaillard.

12 Needham Road, Notting Hill, London W11 2RP
T: +44(0)171 792 2788 F: +44(0)171 792 2988
During TEFAF only: +31(0)43 373 8761

Johnny Van Haeften LTD GODFRIED SCHALCKEN

Made 1643 - 1706, The Hague



The Goddess Diana out hunting in a wood
Signed

On panel 10 3/4 x 8 1/4 ins. 26.5 x 20.7 cms.

Provenance and Literature on application

13 Duke Street, St James's
London SW1Y 6DB

Telephone (0171) 930 3062 Fax (0171) 839 6303

RICHARD GREEN

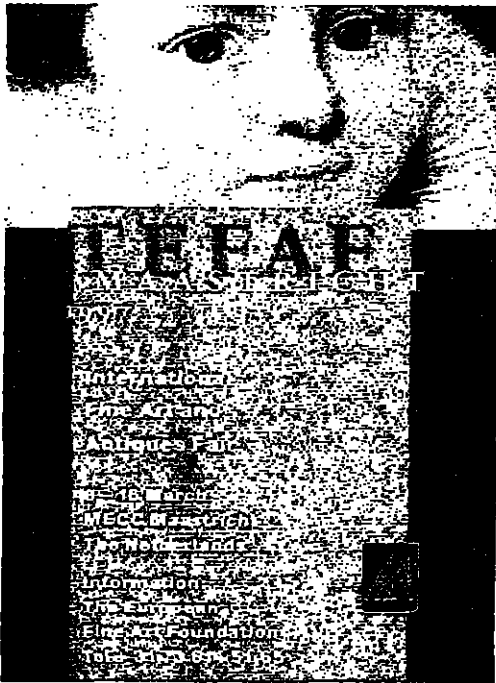


Jossse de Momper (1564-1635) and Jan Brueghel the Elder (1568-1625).
A winter rural landscape. Panel: 19 1/2 x 32 1/2 in / 49.5 x 82.5 cm

Exhibiting at The European Fine Art Fair
Maastricht, The Netherlands

8th-16th March 1997
Stand number 316

33 New Bond Street, London W1Y 9HD
Telephone: 0171-499 5553. Fax: 0171-499 8509
New York: 518 583 2060



JOHN MITCHELL & SON

Fine Paintings

160 New Bond Street,
London W1Y 9PA

Tel: 44-171-493 7567
Fax: 44-171-493 5537

Exhibiting at the
European Fine Art Fair,
Maastricht

STAND 320,
TEL: 043 - 38 38 705

DE JONCKHEERE Old Master Paintings



Jan Brueghel the Elder
1568 Brussels - Antwerp 1625
Oil on copper: 9.4 x 15 cm
Signed and dated 1614

DE JONCKHEERE

100 et 108 rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré 75008 Paris Tel: 01 42 66 69 49
Tel: 01 42 66 23 68 Fax: 01 42 66 13 42
Louvre des Antiquaires 2, Place du Palais Royal 7-9 Allée Boule 75001 Paris
Tel/Fax: 01 42 60 20 82
New York - Contact, Michael N. Altman - 50 East 72 Street - New York 10021
Tel: (212) 879 00 02 Fax: (212) 879 00 11

For serious dealers, collectors, historians and browsers, it is an unmissable event

Miracles in ivory, metal and lacquer

The centrepiece of the fair is a loan exhibition, often from a great national collection. This year it is drawn from the treasures and museums of Maastricht itself and nearby cities, and consists of fine examples of medieval ivory carving — a craft which once flourished in the region, especially in the early 17th century. These unbuyable reliquaries, reliefs and other intricately carved pieces serve as an introduction to the works of art in the fair — all of which are for sale.

GETTING THERE

The Maastricht fair is from March 8-16.

Eurostar (0345 303030) runs Waterloo-Brussels, then a shuttle takes visitors via Brussels Airport to the fair (the shuttle must be booked, ring 00 31 73 614 5165).

This year, Jan Dirven of Antwerp has some magnificent carved pieces in wood or marble, including a Saxon polychrome wooden altarpiece of about 1515 framing an *Adoration of the Magi* which was once in the collection of the Dukes of Norfolk.

More sculpture in clay, wood, ivory and bronze from the early 16th to the mid-18th centuries will be shown by Julius Böhler of Munich. A 36cm 16th-century bronze figure of *Jupiter* demonstrates that a fine physique is not necessarily body-built ugliness, while a baroque ivory bowl and cover carved with river deities by Balthasar Griessmann around 1660 shows the wonderful versatility of the material.

Robert Bowman of London continues the story with 19th and 20th-century sculptures, including this year a delicious 21cm Degas bronze of a dancer, from the edition of 22 cast shortly after his death.

Each year I hurry to the stand of Luis Elvira from



Oil on panel by Jan van Goyen (1596-1656), from leading British dealer Richard Green

Castellon, Spain, who specialises in intriguing metal artefacts. Usually there are extraordinary little boxes with intricate locks and beautiful, elaborate keys. This year, a contrast in both scale and simplicity, there is also a pair of wrought iron and elm palace doors made in China around 1510.

Among the inevitable blue-and-white and armorial wares on the Oriental stands, Vandervien & Vandervien of 's-Hertogenbosch rarely fail to provide something to intrigue. One such is a Tang terracotta figure of a Lokapala, or tomb-

guardian. This creature has a mostly human body, a monkey head with flaming hair and massive teeth, and three claw-like fingers. It may be only 28cm high, but it intimidates as intended.

The ultimate accessory for *Turandot* at Glyndebourne is to be found with Ben Janssens of London. It is a red lacquer picnic-set richly carved with imperial five-clawed dragons sporting in waves. It is fitted with trays and a gilt-bronzed teapot, caddy and bowls. No other Qianlong period (1736-1795) casket is known with such unusual contents,

which means it may have been made for the Emperor himself.

Many stands carry a mixed stock, and the conjunctions and contrasts can be pleasurable. An instance is Pieter Hoogendijk of Baarn in the Netherlands, whose entry in the catalogue has a stately 12th-century Khmer Buddha apparently declining the offer of a swirling shell-shaped silver-gilt bowl made in 1628 by Christiaan van Vianen, a member of a distinguished line of smiths.

HUON MALLALIEU

A treasure-trove of books

OF THE seven categories of exhibits at Maastricht, arguably the most eagerly-awaited by serious collectors and dealers is the rare books division. Although there are several fine and rare book fairs in Europe and America each year, few have such an extraordinary variety of treasures.

Amid such an embarrassment of riches, one offering from Les Enluminures of Paris cries out to be noticed: a stunning illuminated manuscript, *The Boswell Book of Hours*, produced in either Northern France or Flanders, (possibly Bruges) c 1460-70. This contains 172 complete folios, ten full-page miniatures and various elaborate initials and borders — the primary media are gouache and highly burnished gold leaf on parchment. The binding is contemporary, and the price is \$100,000.

Another superb illuminated manuscript is offered by Antiquariat Jorno Günther of Hamburg: Petrarch's *Seven Penitential Psalms*, the illuminations by The Master of Grimani Brevier. This Bruges script is also in its original binding, and dates back to c 1505.

As one has come to expect, London dealer Bernard

Shapiro, has on offer a wealth of spectacular items. Probably the most magnificent is *Delle Loggie Di Raffaele Nel Vaticano* (Rome, 1772-76) — two parts in one elephantine folio comprising 30 huge and splendid engraved plates depicting Raphael's frescoes in the Vatican. There are many



Lithograph by George Angas (Bernard Shapiro)

double sheet-plates and a wonderful panoramic view of the entire gallery made up of three sheets — all finely and richly hand-coloured. This covetable volume is priced at \$65,000.

Shapiro's wide, first-rate range also includes a first edition of a mid 19th-century work, regarded as the best contemporary illustrated

portrayal of Hong Kong. It is Auguste Berger's *La Chine et les Chinois* (Paris, 1842). This large-folio volume comprises 32 views on 25 sepia lithographed plates, and offers fine views of Hong Kong, Macao and Canton, concentrating on the realities of everyday life. In the publisher's original morocco-backed cloth, the folio is offered at £14,500.

Also from Shapiro is a fine set of 30 hand-coloured lithographs of black southern Africans, a first edition, in large folio, by George French Angas, produced in London in 1849. Angas, who spent two years in southern Africa, later produced works on the Australian Aborigines and the New Zealand Maoris. This volume — in modern half morocco with raised bands and gilt edges — is £6,750.

One unusual item, from London dealer Sam Fogg Rare Books and Manuscripts, is a rare 15th-century English alabaster altar piece.

A further attraction of the fair is that the buyer can relax, knowing that every item has been vetted for quality and authenticity: so, buy with confidence.

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

FAX: 0171 752 7703

often LTD
MICKEN

ERE

ERE

DANIEL KATZ LTD

European Sculpture & Works of Art
Old Master Paintings



Portrait bust of Charles V
Middle Rhine, first quarter of XVIth C.
Limestone, 56 x 58 cm.

Stand at Maastricht No. 457
Telephone on Stand: 0931-43-3838827
59 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 6LX
Tel: 0171-493 0688 Fax: 0171-493 7493
Internet: mail: info@www.danielkatz.com

DAXER & MARSHALL



An important roll-top desk by David Roentgen ca. 1780
European Fine Art Fair, Booth 128 ph. 0031 43 3838632
Daxer & Marshall, Wincelbacherplatz 6, 80333 Munich, Germany,
ph. 0049 89 280640 fax. 281757



Konrad O. Bernheimer



Cornelis de Heem (Leyden 1631-1695 Antwerp), Still life with Fruit and Sunflower
signed lower left: C de Heem
Oil on canvas, 57 x 75 cm

In Munich:
Promenadeplatz 13
80333 München
Phone +49 89 22 66 72
Fax +49 89 22 60 37

Exhibiting at The European Fine Art Fair in Maastricht,
Stand 220, Phone +31 43 383 86 13

In London:
by appointment
1 Mount Street, London W1Y 5AA
Phone +44 171 495 70 38
Fax +44 171 495 70 27

MARLBOROUGH

The European Fine Art and Antiques Fair
Maastricht 8 - 16 March 1997
Stand 324

Stand Telephone: +31-43-383 87 21
Stand Facsimile: +31-43-383 87 33



Stephen Courty: Figure on Scales, 1995-96, oil on canvas, 71 x 48 inches

Gallery Address: Marlborough Fine Art (London) Ltd.
6, Albemarle Street, London W1X 4BY
Telephone: 0171-629 5161 Facsimile: 0171-629 6338

THE TIMES

Fine Art & Antiques

The Times will once again be publishing a special Art & Antiques Fairs Supplement on June 3rd 1997.

Comprising relevant editorial and advertising in relation to the four major London Fairs, this exciting supplement will offer an opportunity for advertisers to promote themselves to over 2 million readers.

For details please contact:
Shirley McGlynn
on 0171 680 6892
or 0171 680 6801.

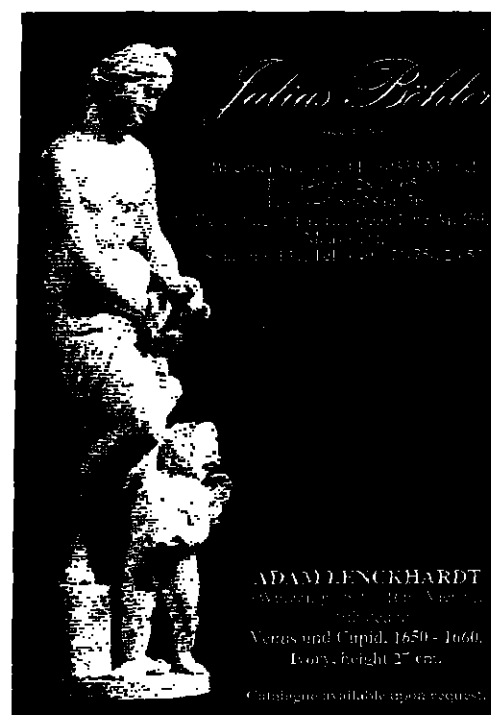
BERNARD J SHAPERO RARE BOOKS

SPECIALISTS IN RARE BOOKS
INCLUDING NATURAL HISTORY, TRAVEL,
BAEDEKERS, ILLUSTRATED BOOKS,
ENGLISH AND CONTINENTAL
LITERATURE AND FINE BINDINGS.

ANTIQUARIAN PRINTS & MAPS
AND NINETEENTH CENTURY PHOTOGRAPHY
IN THE GALLERY DOWNSTAIRS.



32 SAINT GEORGE STREET, LONDON W1R 6EA
TELEPHONE 0171 495 0876 FAX 0171 229 7860



ADAM LISCHHARDT
Venus and Cupid, 1650-1660.
Engraving, 27 cm.

PETRUS LE PIN LATOUR LAFITE MARGAUX YQUEM

T.E.F.A.F.
MAASTRICHT
1997



MAASTRICHT
ART FAIR
1997

ANDREW BRUCE will again have a stand (218A) at the largest European Art Fair.
As always he is available to discuss all matters relating to Fine Wines;
-buying and selling all over the world.

Cartier



Tank Française
watch
18 carat gold.
Automatic
movement.

150 YEARS OF HISTORY AND ROMANCE

HIGH JEWELLERY, STAND 127

GALERIE CLAUDE BERNARD

7-9, rue des Beaux Arts, 75006 Paris
Tel: 01 43-26-97-07 Fax: 01 46-33-04-25



Fernand LEGER 1944 "Les Cyclistes" China ink & gouache on paper 36 x 54 cm.

Presenting works by the
Goldsmith Goudji and
19th and 20th century Masters.

MAASTRICHT TEFAF
Booth No. 327 Tel: (31) 43-383-86-11

Insolvency assistance request

Hughes and Others v Hannover-Ruckversicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft

Before Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Morritt and Lord Justice Thorpe

[Judgment January 28]

When faced with a request for assistance under section 426 of the Insolvency Act 1986 a court in England had available its own common law as well as the statutory insolvency law of England and Wales or of the requesting country. The court had to consider in accordance with those three sources of law whether the request might properly be granted and in cases where discretion was to be exercised the request could never be conclusive.

The Court of Appeal so stated in a reserved judgment when dismissing an appeal by Christopher Hughes, David Lines and Peter Mitchell against an order of Mr Justice Knox on April 3, 1996 declining to continue injunctive relief in respect of "art and all jurisdictions" outside England and Wales as sought in a letter of request from the Supreme Court of Bermuda.

The appellants were joint provisional liquidators of a company who wished to restrain proceedings against the company issued by Hannover Ruckversicherungs-Aktiengesellschaft.

Section 426 of the Insolvency Act 1986 provided: "(4) The courts having jurisdiction in relation to insolvency law in any part of the United Kingdom shall assist the courts having the corresponding jurisdiction in any other part of the United Kingdom or any relevant country or territory."

(5) For the purposes of subsection (4) a request made to a

court in any part of the United Kingdom by a court in any other part of the United Kingdom or in a relevant country is authority for the court to which the request is made to apply, in relation to any matters specified in the request, the insolvency law which is applicable by either court in relation to comparable matters falling within its jurisdiction.

"(10) In this section 'insolvency law' means - (a) in relation to England and Wales, provision made by or under this Act or sections 6 to 10, 12, 15, 19(6) and 20 (with Schedule 1) of the Company Directors Disqualification Act 1986 and extending to England and Wales... (d) in relation to any relevant country or territory, so much of the law of that country or territory as corresponds to provisions falling within any of the foregoing paragraphs."

Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Miss Susan Prevezer for the appellants; Mr Martin Pascoe for Hannover.

LORD JUSTICE MORRITT said that the issues arising concerning construction were: 1 What was comprised in the words "insolvency law" as defined in subsection (10)?

2 What was the interrelationship between subsections (4) and (5) with regard to the ability of the courts in England to assist the courts of the other parts of the UK or of the relevant countries or territories?

3 What was the nature and extent of the obligation imposed by subsection (4)?

The provisions of section 426 had been considered in three reported cases, two of which were considered in the judgment under appeal: see *Re Dalhousie* [1992] BCLC 621; *Re Bank of Credit and Commerce International SA* (No 9) [1994] 2 BCLC 636 and *Re*

Focus Insurance Company [1996] BCC 659.

In his Lordship's view, a historical survey of the authorities and statutory predecessors of section 426 revealed a number of material propositions.

The assistance afforded to the requesting court was the result of an exercise of the English court's general equitable jurisdiction. The orders made recognised that issues would have to be determined by due process of law.

It was not Parliament's intention when enacting section 426 to restrict the jurisdiction or ability of the courts in England to afford assistance to other courts in the UK or other relevant countries and territories.

Cases decided under earlier legislation were all ones where the court exercised general jurisdiction, whereas those decided under section 426 were examples of the court exercising jurisdiction conferred specifically by the Insolvency Act or of its general powers ancillary to such jurisdiction.

It seemed to his Lordship on the first issue of construction that the words "insolvency law" as defined in subsection (10) was such as to supply a complete definition. Thus it stated what the words "insolvency law" meant, not what they included.

Further, the words "provisions made by or under this Act" did not in their normal meaning include provisions made by some quite different Act such as the general power to grant injunctions under section 37 of the Supreme Court Act 1981.

The earlier statutory provisions showed that the jurisdiction that might be exercised was not limited. The position under section 426 was the same.

Reference to "insolvency law" in section 426 served to identify the courts

in any part of the UK on which the obligation to assist was cast. Those courts had their usual jurisdiction and powers and there was nothing in section 426 to exclude either.

The purpose of subsection (5) was not to reduce that jurisdiction or powers but for the purposes of (4) only to extend them. Thus the court in England faced with a request from a relevant country could in respect of the matters specified in the request apply either the insolvency law of the country concerned or its own insolvency law.

Subsection (5) introduced the hypothesis that the matters specified in the request fell within the jurisdiction of the court applying the insolvency law in so far as "comparable matters" would do so.

Thus there was available to the court in England when asked for assistance under section 426, (a) its own general jurisdiction and powers and either (b) the insolvency law of England and Wales or (c) so much of the law of the relevant country as corresponded to that comprised in (b).

In the case of (b) and (c) but not (a) the court in England was entitled to apply such law on the hypothesis that as to jurisdiction concerning the matters specified in the request.

It seemed to his Lordship that on that construction the evident intention of Parliament was given effect to without distorting the language of subsection (10). Accordingly his Lordship disagreed with Mr Justice Knox as to the proper construction.

That conclusion largely disposed of the second issue. The purpose of subsection (5) was to extend the jurisdiction of the court.

In relation to the third issue, the obligation to assist was imposed on a court and not some executive agency. The function of the court was to consider whether in accordance with the three sources of law identified as (a), (b) and (c) above the assistance might properly be granted.

His Lordship did not think that the request could ever be conclusive as to the manner in which the court's discretion should be exercised.

The assistance should be given if, in accordance with the law to be applied, the relief sought could properly be granted.

In cases requiring the exercise of a discretion the fact of the request was a weighty matter to be taken into account but it could not outweigh all others.

His Lordship would approve *Re Dalhousie*, *Re BCCI No 9* and *Re Focus Insurance Ltd*.

Lord Justice Thorpe and Lord Justice Roch agreed.

Solicitors: Freshfields; Lovell White Durrant.

Defects in disciplinary procedure

Jones and Another v Welsh Rugby Football Union

Before Mrs Justice Ebsworth [Judgment February 27]

It was arguable that failure by a rugby union's disciplinary committee either to allow a player to challenge by question or evidence the factual basis of the allegation against him or to vary its procedures for viewing video evidence without good reason was unfair. A player challenging such unfair treatment should not be suspended from playing pending resolution of the issue.

Mrs Justice Ebsworth so stated in a judgment given in open court at the request of the parties following a hearing in chambers in the Queen's Bench Division when granting Mark Jones, a player with Ebbw Vale RFC, the second plaintiff, an injunction lifting a four-week suspension imposed on December 10, 1996 by the Welsh Rugby Football Union's disciplinary committee. Mr Jones had been sent off for fighting in a match with Swansea RFC on November 9, 1996. He subsequently appeared before a disciplinary committee to make representations concerning the referee's report. The committee imposed a suspension.

Mr William Norris for the plaintiffs; Mr Wyn Williams, QC, for the Welsh RFU.

MRS JUSTICE EBSWORTH said that the plaintiffs complained that the disciplinary proceedings were fundamentally unfair: in summary that the plaintiffs were unrepresented in real terms and that the professional game needed a more formalised procedure.

Mr Norris submitted that in a disciplinary context in professional sport, from which economic and other consequences might flow, representations by lawyers should be an option the Welsh RFU was prepared to consider.

The existing procedures were found in the constitution of the Welsh RFU which devolved power in relation to discipline to a committee operating under resolution 13. The rules gave the committee effectively complete discretion over the form of their own proceedings. The committee might invite attendance or representation and could call witnesses if asked to do so.

The rules were sufficiently wide to enable a response to requests made to them to hear particular witnesses or receive relevant evidence. It was inquisitorial but that did not make it unfair or inadequate to do justice.

Mr Norris did not argue for an adversarial system. He submitted that the present system gave the player no rights. The player was entirely within the hands of the

committee. Mr Norris invited the court to look at how the body actually exercised its powers as set out in the procedural document circulated prior to the hearing and to conclude it was lacking in basic fairness.

In her Ladyship's judgment, the issue was whether the committee applied the rules with an undue rigidity and whether or not the rules were unfair. Her Ladyship found that there was nothing in rule 13 requiring the committee to view a film or video of the incident in private.

It was clearly arguable that the committee was wrong to refuse to vary its procedure for no other reason than that it did not do things that way. It seemed to her Ladyship that it was also properly arguable that a system which in effect prohibited a party from challenging by question or by evidence the factual basis of the allegation against him on its face lacked basic fairness.

Her Ladyship was satisfied that those procedural defects, taken in the context of a professional sport amounted to an arguable case that the plaintiffs' right to defend themselves properly and effectively was denied them.

Her Ladyship accepted on the basis of *Ridge v Baldwin* [1964] AC 40 that to act with such fairness was required of the defendants.

Her Ladyship did not have to go beyond that before deciding whether it was proper to exercise discretion to grant an injunction.

Sport was now big business; many people earned their living from it in one way or another. It would be naive to pretend that the modern world of sport could be conducted as it used to be not very many years ago. It was not relevant to express a view as to the conduct of the committee as to the merits of the sanction imposed, but it was clear that the result had economic consequences for both plaintiffs.

Applying the well established principles upon which a mandatory injunction could be granted; was the wrong quantifiable in terms that would make damages an adequate remedy?

Loss of wages could be calculated; there were, however, intangibles. It was a case where the practical reality required the suspension to be lifted until the issue was determined between the parties: to do so would not cost the Welsh RFU money.

Her Ladyship would not grant relief to the club because it did not seek representation at the hearing. Her Ladyship would grant interlocutory relief to Mr Jones.

Solicitors: Field, Fisher Waterhouse; Hugh James Jones & Jenkins, Cardiff.

Cost of release of covenants deductible

Garner (Inspector of Taxes) v Pounds Shipowners and Shipbreakers Ltd

Before Mr Justice Carnwath [Judgment February 21]

In computing the amount of the chargeable gain accruing from the grant of an option to purchase development land, expenditure incurred by the owners of the land to secure the release of restrictive covenants that affected it was deductible from the amount of the consideration paid to them in return for granting the option.

Mr Justice Carnwath so held in the Chancery Division dismissing the Crown's appeal and upholding, but for different reasons, the determination by Portsmouth general commissioners that £90,000 paid in May 1990 was an allowable deduction in computing the amount of chargeable gains accruing to the taxpayers.

Pounds Shipowners and Shipbreakers Ltd and Henry Frederick Pounds, Mr Pounds had died since the hearing before the commissioners and the appeal was being conducted by the executors of his estate.

In 1988 the taxpayers, owners of the land, in consideration for £399,750 granted an option to purchase their shares of the land to Mowat Group plc, the sale price

being in excess of £4 million. The option was never exercised.

It was a condition of the option agreement that the taxpayers use their best endeavours to procure releases from certain restrictive covenants that affected the land. Failure to obtain the releases would have required repayment of the £399,750 to Mowat.

The taxpayers incurred expenditure of £90,000 on obtaining the releases. The general commissioners held that sum was deductible under section 32 of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979.

Mr Michael Furness for the Crown; Mr David Ewart for the taxpayers.

MRS JUSTICE CARNWATH said that the issue was the correct treatment for capital gains tax purposes of the option price. Section 15(1) of the 1979 Act provided that the grant of an option was the disposal of an asset. Part II, Chapter II of the Act was concerned with the computation of gains, section 32 setting out amounts allowable as a deduction from the consideration for the disposal.

The implication, although nowhere stated expressly in the Act, was that in a case of an arm's length disposal for monetary consideration, the consideration was the starting point for the

computation of the gain.

Aberdeen Construction Group Ltd v IRC [1978] 2 TC 281 and *Randall v Plumb* [1975] 1 WLR 633 showed that in identifying the consideration one should look at the particular transaction as a whole to see what the donor received for the asset.

The Crown's case was that the consideration for the option was that stated in the agreement, £399,750, and the taxpayers could not bring themselves within any provision allowing a deduction to be made for the £90,000.

The truth was, Mr Furness argued, that that sum was money spent in enhancing the value of the land and not of the option and as such would properly be taken into account as a deduction if and when the land was sold.

The commissioners held that the £90,000 should be treated as a deduction under section 32 of the Act but without specifying which limb, Mr Ewart relied on the second part of subsection (1)(a): expenditure wholly and exclusively incurred in providing the asset.

On that argument the Crown was correct. It was not possible to fit the circumstances of the case into any of the section 32 categories. The asset was provided long before the expenditure was

incurred. It was spent pursuant to the option but not in providing it.

Mr Ewart's alternative submission depended on the identification of the consideration. He submitted that by analogy with *Randall v Plumb* the onerous obligation under the agreement was to be taken into account in computing the amount of the consideration. Best evidence of the value of the obligation, he said, was the £90,000 actually paid.

That was the correct approach. It was contrary to business reality to have regard only to the nominal consideration stated in the agreement, without regard to the other incidents of the transaction which materially affected the value of that consideration to the grantor.

The value to which the taxpayers were entitled under the option agreement was not £399,750. That nominal entitlement was qualified in two ways: it was dependent on the taxpayers being able to secure release of the covenants and, assuming release, the net consideration in their hands would be the nominal amount less whatever was required to secure that release.

That was the value which the taxpayers obtained for the grant of the option.

Solicitors: Solicitor of Inland Revenue; Warner Goodman & Street, Farnham.

Appropriate forum for matrimonial case

Butler v Butler

Before Sir Stephen Brown, President, Lord Justice Hobbhouse and Lord Justice Ward

[Judgment February 19]

The test to be applied when deciding on the most appropriate forum in matrimonial proceedings was the statutory test of a balance of fairness including convenience.

The Court of Appeal so held when allowing the wife's appeal from the refusal by Judge Goodall, sitting as a deputy High Court judge, on November 30, 1995 to grant a stay in respect of the husband's divorce petition issued in the United Kingdom on March 15, 1995.

The wife had instituted divorce

proceedings in Florida on April 27, 1995 and contended that, on the facts, Florida was the more convenient forum.

Mr Thomas Brudenell for the wife; Mr Martin Pointer, QC and Mr Nigel Dyer for the husband.

THE PRESIDENT said that where there were competing petitions for divorce in two jurisdictions, matters were regulated by section 5(6) and paragraph 9(1) of Schedule 1 to the Domicile and Matrimonial Proceedings Act 1973.

Although on the facts it was clear that the parties' life together had centred on Florida, the trial judge had erroneously considered, relying on *Chateaufort v Chateaufort* (unreported, October 24, 1988) that

the wife had not shown that the Florida forum was clearly or distinctly more appropriate and had taken into account various irrelevant procedures relating to Florida law.

The statutory discretion could only be set aside if it could be shown the trial judge was plainly wrong.

Here the connection with Florida was so overwhelming that it was clearly the appropriate forum. Accordingly, the appeal would be allowed and the English proceedings stayed.

Lord Justice Hobbhouse and Lord Justice Ward delivered concurring judgments.

Solicitors: Fladgate Fielder; Gordon Dadds.

EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER

THE TIMES

FREE previews of *The English Patient*

Readers of *The Times* can get the hottest cinema ticket of the year FREE and enjoy a private screening of *The English Patient*, starring Ralph Fiennes and Kristin Scott Thomas, pictured right and Juliette Binoche, below.

We have a total of 25,000 tickets to give away for the exclusive screenings on Saturday, March 8 - the week before it opens in the UK. And there are 115 cinemas nationwide to choose from.

The blockbuster, nominated for 12 Oscars, is directed and scripted by Anthony Minghella (of *Truly, Madly, Deeply* fame) and is distributed by Buena Vista. Based on the novel by Michael Ondaatje which won the Booker Prize in 1992, *The English Patient* is an epic film of adventure, intrigue, betrayal and love about four strangers whose diverse lives become inextricably connected.

HOW TO GET YOUR FREE TICKET

Collect the four FREE preview tokens published this week in *The Times* and attach them to the special voucher, below.

To get your ticket, present the voucher and tokens at one of the cinemas listed on this page between 5pm Thursday, March 6 and the close of business on Friday, March 7.

Each voucher, with four tokens attached, entitles you to one

THE TIMES
THE ENGLISH
PATIENT
FREE PREVIEW
TOKEN 4

FREE ticket. Tickets will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. The screenings take place in the afternoon on Saturday March 8. See the list of cinemas for the exact times at the venue of your choice.

THE TIMES FREE PREVIEW OF THE ENGLISH PATIENT

This form, with four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* entitles the bearer to a FREE ticket, subject to availability, to one of the cinemas taking part in this offer. This voucher is not transferable. Valid only for *The English Patient*, March 8 1997. No photocopies, reproductions or vouchers missing tokens will be accepted.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms/Other _____ Initials _____
Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____ Day tel _____

IT WOULD HELP US IF YOU ANSWERED THESE QUESTIONS:
Which one of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box)
☐ 15-24 ☐ 25-34 ☐ 35-44 ☐ 45-54 ☐ 55-64 ☐ 65+

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) each week?

Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less)?

Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)?

If you would prefer us to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick ☐



ODEON

Aberdeen, Justice Mill Lane; Ayr, Burns Statue Square; Barking, Longbridge Rd; Barnet, Gt North Rd; Birmingham, New St; Bournemouth, Westover Rd; Brighton, West St; Bromborough, Wirral Leisure Park; Bromley, 242 High St; Cardiff Capital, Station Terrace; Chelmsford, Baddow Rd; Cheltenham, Winchcombe St; Chester, Northgate St; Colchester, Crouch St; Coventry, Jordan Well; Dundee, The Stack Leisure Park; Edinburgh, Clerk St; Exeter, Sidwell St; Glasgow, Paisley Rd; Glasgow, Renfield St; Gillingham, Bedford Rd; Harrogate, East Parade; Hemel Hempstead, Leisure World; Hull, Kingston St; Ipswich, Chants Hill; Ipswich, St Margarets St; Jersey, Bath St; St Helier; Leeds, The Headrow; Leicester, Queen St; Lincoln, Valentine Rd; Liverpool, London Rd; LONDON: Holloway, Holloway Rd, Islington; Kensington, High Street; Marble Arch, Edgware Rd; Richmond, Richmond Studio, Red Lion St; Streatham, 47-49 High Rd; Swiss Cottage, Finchley Rd; Wimbledon, The Broadway; Romford, Mercury Gardens; Manchester, Oxford St; Middlesbrough, Corporation Rd; Newcastle, Pilgrim St; Nottingham, Angel Row; Portsmouth, London Rd, North End; Plymouth, Derry's Cross; Salisbury, New Canal; Sheffield, Arundel Gate; Southampton, Victoria Circus, The Broadway; London Rd; Stoke on Trent, Elmira Rd; Sutton Coldfield, Birmingham Rd; Taunton, Herongate, Riverside; Weston-Super-Mare, The Centre; Worcester, Forgate St. (Please check times with cinemas using Talking Pages 0800 600 900).

WARNER VILLAGE Basinstoke, Leisure Park, Churchill Way; Bury, Pilsworth Rd; Cambridge, Grafton Centre; Dagenham, Goresbrook Fields; Doncaster, Leisure Park, Bawtry Rd; Harrow, St George's Centre, St Anne's Rd; Leicester, Meridian Leisure Park; London: Acton, Royale Leisure Park, Western Ave; Croydon, Purley Way; Finchley, Gt North Leisure Park, Chaplin Sq; West End, Leicester Square; Newcastle, New Bridge St; Preston, London Way, Walton-Le-Dale; Sheffield, Meadowhall Centre; Thurrock, Lakeside Shopping Centre; Watford, Woodside Leisure Park; Garston; York, Stirling Rd, Clifton Moor. (All Warner shows at 3.00pm)

UA CINEMAS Bayswater, Whiteleys; Blanchardstown, New Centre, Dublin; Bracknell, Skimped Hill Lane; Clydebank, Britannia Way; Collock, Malahide Rd, Dublin; Derby, Mansfield Rd; Gateshead, Metro Centre; Hatfield, Comet Way; Hull, St Andrews Quay; Milton Keynes, Midsummer Blvd; Poole, Mannings Heath; Dudley, Brerley Hill; East Kilbride, Rothesay St; Edinburgh, Newcraighall Rd; Edmonton, Picketts Lock Lane; Portsmouth, Portway, Cosham; Preston, Ashton on Ribble; Sheffield, Crystal Peaks; Solihull, Oldlands Rd; Sutton, St Nicholas Way; Swansea, Quay Parade; Tallaght, Old Blessington Rd, Dublin; Tamworth, Boleridge St; Telford, Foregate, Town centre; Warrington, Cromwell Ave; Wycombe, Crest Rd; West Thurrock, Lakeside Retail Park. (All UA shows at 3.30pm)

SHOWCASE Birmingham, Kingsbury Rd, Erdington; Bristol, St Phillips Causeway; Coventry, Gilead Way; Leeds, Birstal, N. Bailey; Liverpool, Norris Green; Manchester, Belle Vue; Nottingham, Redfield Way, Lenton; Peterborough, Mallory Rd; Bognor, Reading, Loddon Bridge, Reading Rd; Stockton, Teeside Leisure Pk; Walsall, Bentley Mill Way. (All Showcase previews begin at 3.30pm.)

INDEPENDENTS Cineworld Stevenage; Cineworld Wakefield; Moviehouse Belfast, Yorkgate; Robins Durham; Robins Newbury. (All previews at the Independents begin at 3pm except in Belfast where it starts at 3.30pm.)

CHANGING TIMES

[illegible]

Champion of 95 in search of longevity

Here is how you, too, can be a globetrotting sports champion at the age of 95. The secrets come straight from the lips of a man who knows.

Everett Hosack was born in 1902, the year when King Edward VII was crowned in Westminster Abbey and when you could have snapped up 82 acres around Earls Court, in London, complete with 1,450 houses, for just £565,000. At the weekend the remarkable Hosack, from Ohio, in the United States, carried off three gold medals while competing as a guest in the European indoor veterans athletics championships in Birmingham.

He was guaranteed victory in the long jump (2.00 metres), 60 metres (16.50sec) and shot (4.07 metres) simply because he was there. The veterans compete in five-year age-bands, and Hosack was the only one entered in the 95 to 99 years section.

This week you could have caught up with him as he relaxed after his exhausting weekend by leaping around London, like any other tourist, on foot, bus and Tube — his gold medals jangling in his pocket and his fitness and pride in his victories twinkling in his eyes.

When he had seen the sights in London and Birmingham, he had plans to take in Paris before flying back across the Atlantic.

So how does he do it? What advice does he have to pass on to other would-be sportsmen and women who have long passed the milestones of middle age?

Hosack first put on running shoes when he was 21; that was back in 1923. He went to the University of Florida, where he was soon a leading hurdler. After university he ran in a team formed by the New York Central Railroad, his employers, but, after the Wall Street crash of 1929, the stockholders were not keen on spending money on sport and the track meetings ended.

For the next 50 years Hosack's athletics career went into suspended animation, but he kept himself trim and his simple exercise and diet regime might serve as a model for anyone who wants to prepare themselves for a sporting old age.

As well as his tough physical work in the shunting yards of the railroad company, he lived an outdoor life in the country. He says that he had seven acres of land on which he planted 300 pine trees. "I mowed a



path around the trees and I used to run around it," he said. "It wasn't far, just a mile or so, but I would run it in five or ten minutes two or three times a week. It was much better than the sidewalk, which is so cruel on your knees."

It was a perfect example of training that was just hard enough to keep him in good shape and health, but not so tough that it would wear him out or injure him.

Add to this half-century of regular light exercise a good marriage and sound nutrition, and you may well have the formula for long life and sporting success. Elsa, Hosack's wife, who was born of Swedish parents, is 87 years old. "We have been sweethearts since 1929," Hosack said, "but we couldn't get married for a while because of the Depression."

Elsa is very strong on nutritious food. "She cuts down on all the fat," Hosack said. "She even takes the skin off chicken for me. She fills me up with plenty of fresh vegetables and fruit and we keep well away from anything in cans. I eat simple food, though I do have a big weakness for pies. Blueberry pie is my favourite."

"I like to start every day with a good breakfast — oatmeal and bananas — but I really eat very lightly. I sometimes skip lunch altogether and just have an evening meal." At nearly 97, Hosack is a slendery 150lb. "At one time I got up to 165lb," he said. "My clothes were a little tight, so I simply cut back on the food."

Perhaps the secret lies in extra vitamins? "I do take an odourless substitute for garlic," he said, "a one-a-day multivitamin pill and some vitamin E." However, when asked if he thinks that this is the secret of long life, he said: "It's too soon to say, I've only been taking them for the past six months."

Alcohol and tobacco have always been no-go areas for Hosack. "I will take an occasional drink, but I'm very blessed in that I don't care for it," he said. "They presented me with a bottle of champagne at Birmingham,

but I gave it to one of the officials. It would taste just like vinegar to me."

Hosack made his comeback in athletics at the age of 77, when he joined the Over The Hill Track Club. Since then he has been training regularly for an hour twice a week at a high school track. He jogs half a mile to warm up, then practises jumping, throwing and sprint starts, using spiked shoes when he runs on the track. He reckons to get ten hours or more sleep a night and does not believe in getting up too early in the morning.

He will next compete in Boston, in two weeks' time, in the hammer, his favourite event. Hosack is a remarkable man, whipcord fit with plenty of hair, clear blue eyes and a trim white-grey moustache. If you were told that he was 20 years younger, you would not be against it.

"If you think I look in good shape, you should have seen me when I was 92," he said. "I was as fit as a fiddle up to 92, but now the germs are circling my wagon."

They may be circling, but Hosack still looks as if he can outrun them any time he wants.

JOHN BRYANT

Alan Lee names Stewart, Croft and Gough as main tour successes

England end with favourable balance

HOW quickly things change — or, more pertinently, how quickly they can appear to change. Two months ago, England skulked out of Zimbabwe trailed by words such as "disgrace" and "humiliation". Today they arrive home from New Zealand, the leadership more secure and the team more settled than it has been in years.

Have England suddenly learnt how to play? Are they about to conquer the cricketing world? Of course not. Most of sport falls in the grey area between two extremes and England were neither as unspeakable as might be thought in the first half of their trip, nor as indestructible in the second.

They ought to have won the brief Test series against Zimbabwe, and all but did; they were then dreadful in two one-day internationals, which were the last thing people saw and the first they remem-

bered. In New Zealand, better prepared and acclimatised, they were one wicket away from winning the Test series 3-0 rather than 2-0 and even showed an overdue improvement in one-day cricket until fatigue brought them down.

Zimbabwe were better than expected, New Zealand much worse. They are in a mess, their confidence low, their pool of talent shallow; there have been few poorer international sides in recent years.

England, however, played some admirable Test cricket and established a balance that looked authoritative. The use of Robert Croft, whose self-belief has flourished, together with Phil Tufnell offers variety and control that the endless seam-orientated attacks of the brief Test series against Zimbabwe, and all but did; they were then dreadful in two one-day internationals, which were the last thing people saw and the first they remem-

bered. In New Zealand, better prepared and acclimatised, they were one wicket away from winning the Test series 3-0 rather than 2-0 and even showed an overdue improvement in one-day cricket until fatigue brought them down.

and if Atherton's conviction that the Australians are "vulnerable" sounds optimistic, the odds of 7-1 against England winning back the Ashes are insupportably long.

The confirmation of Atherton's position is reassuring. It was all very well to demand scapegoats, but if Atherton was to go, who would succeed him? Alec Stewart, almost 34 and already burdened with two key jobs? Nasser Hussain, whose volatility may have receded but whose captaincy experience is slim?

Atherton has stated that he wants to continue, and not merely to break Peter May's record of 41 Tests as an England captain, which he should do at Lord's in June. "The record itself isn't important," he said. "But there is a lot of scrutiny attached to this job and if it means I have coped with it in a reasonable way, that is a source of satisfaction."

He has had a good deal to cope with on this tour and has handled it quietly, equably, very much in his own way. Atherton has been the strong and silent side of the England management. His public utterances have been measured and few, a description, he said, that applies equally to his team talks: "I am conscious that Graham Gough found he was always saying the same thing and that eventually he wasn't getting through. I now prefer to speak less but make it pointed."

This is a lesson that David Lloyd, the coach, has learnt the hard way. He has been swept along on a tide of rhetoric more than once and the belated realisation that he was being ridiculed for it led to temporarily soured relations with the media. Lloyd has been innovative during his first 12 months and the players respond to him. If he is to survive the rough passages, however, his inclination to speak his mind and damn the consequences will have to be better regulated.

The imminent appointment of a press officer to accompany the team is being welcomed as a step in this direction. "I care about the image of the team and it concerns me that the general public don't view us too kindly," Atherton said. "It is partly our own fault, partly



Atherton has come through a difficult winter with his captaincy still secure

not, but anything that can be done to show us in a better light must be welcomed."

There have been some exceptional performers on this tour. Croft is one. Stewart and Darren Gough two more. Stewart is batting and keeping wicket, better than ever; Gough has joyfully recaptured his knack for taking wickets.

26 in the five Tests — with late swing, changes of pace and the best yorker in England.

The development of John Crawley and the renaissance of Andy Caddick are further causes for satisfaction, but two members of the accepted Test side have something to prove. Nick Knight has technical flaws to resolve and will be unable to do so until his broken finger heals. Dominic

Cork's problems are deeper and broader. He has not had a happy tour, bowling well below his best and occasionally behaving childishly.

The feud that simmered between Cork and Adam Parore was symptomatic of a series that was played with far more hostility than is customary between these teams.

It threatened to boil over when the New Zealand management officially accused Knight of cheating after he had claimed a catch at silly point in the Christchurch Test. The subsequent withdrawal of the protest could not entirely repair the damage.

Atherton's view of sledging is intriguing, considering the summer to come. "It's a man's world out there and it does go

on, but I don't consider it an issue unless it is personally offensive or it is continued off the field," he said. "Sometimes, a player can go overboard with it and it affects his cricket. Cork got distracted on this tour and I have known it happen to Australian sides in the past."

England now face a home Ashes series followed by a tour to the West Indies, a visit from South Africa and then another trip to Australia. None of these teams will be as lenient if England repeat the bad starts that hampered them in four out of five Tests this winter, but if they can break that habit, and create a virtue out of consistent selection, there is reason to be hopeful after this improbably mixed tour.



Cork, left, was disappointing, but Croft blossomed



Multiple Sclerosis. Stroke. Parkinsons Disease. Cerebral Palsy. Head Injuries. Arthritis. Cancer.

Quality of life costs more

...it also costs money. The needs of our residents are such that the quality of care we provide is, and must continue to be, exceptional. The British Home and Hospital in Streatham has been caring for people who are chronically sick and disabled for over 130 years. We aim to provide the highest possible quality of life for all our residents, 365 days a year.

BHHI relies heavily on legacies and donations to maintain this quality of care and to continue to promote choice and independence for our residents. Please support us by making a donation and remembering BHHI in your will — your help could ensure we are here to provide care for another 130 years.

☐ My gift of £ is enclosed
☐ Please send me your legacy leaflet
☐ Please send me information on tax efficient giving

Name _____
Address _____
Post Code _____

POST THIS COUPON TODAY TO:
Madron T.L. Kelly,
BHHI, Crown Lane,
Streatham, SW16 3JB.

telephone: 0181-670 8261

WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 43

OGOSHI

(a) A hip throw in Judo. From the Japanese *o(u)* big, major + *koshi* the waist or hips. "A ballet dancer broke an arm while trying an Ogoishi throw."

POLER

(a) A cadger or sponger in Australian slang. Someone who shirks work. "You long-jawed poler." Norman roared. "Living on the fat of the land, while your poor damn back feeds on soup and coconuts and what they can roast out of the bush."

RIEDEL

(b) A low, transverse ridge of resistant bedrock on the floor of a glacial valley. From the Middle High German *riegel* a crossbar for fastening.

PABST

(b) The proprietary brand name of a lager beer from Milwaukee in the US. "It is impossible to think seriously with words such as Classicism, Romanticism, Humanism, or Realism. But of course these terms are not labels; they have a range of meaning very different from Pabst. Blue Ribbon or Liebfrauenmilch."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1 Rxd4 exd4 2 Qd7? Rxd7 (better is 2... h5 but then White moves his queen and will win quickly thanks to his material superiority and passed pawn on d3) 3 Be5+ mating.

PRICES NOW INCLUDE FREE UK DELIVERY TO TIMES READERS (REST OF WORLD ADD £1 PER ITEM). STERLING/US DOLLAR CHEQUES ONLY. (U.S. LBS. TIMES CROSSWORDS: Books £14.95/\$29.95 each, The Times Crossword - Book 2 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 3 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 4 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 5 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 6 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 7 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 8 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 9 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 10 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 11 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 12 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 13 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 14 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 15 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 16 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 17 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 18 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 19 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 20 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 21 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 22 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 23 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 24 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 25 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 26 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 27 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 28 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 29 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 30 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 31 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 32 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 33 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 34 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 35 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 36 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 37 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 38 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 39 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 40 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 41 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 42 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 43 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 44 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 45 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 46 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 47 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 48 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 49 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 50 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 51 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 52 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 53 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 54 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 55 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 56 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 57 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 58 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 59 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 60 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 61 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 62 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 63 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 64 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 65 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 66 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 67 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 68 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 69 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 70 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 71 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 72 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 73 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 74 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 75 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 76 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 77 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 78 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 79 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 80 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 81 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 82 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 83 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 84 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 85 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 86 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 87 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 88 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 89 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 90 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 91 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 92 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 93 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 94 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 95 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 96 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 97 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 98 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 99 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 100 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 101 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 102 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 103 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 104 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 105 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 106 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 107 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 108 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 109 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 110 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 111 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 112 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 113 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 114 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 115 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 116 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 117 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 118 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 119 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 120 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 121 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 122 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 123 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 124 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 125 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 126 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 127 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 128 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 129 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 130 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 131 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 132 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 133 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 134 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 135 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 136 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 137 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 138 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 139 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 140 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 141 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 142 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 143 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 144 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 145 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 146 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 147 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 148 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 149 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 150 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 151 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 152 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 153 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 154 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 155 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 156 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 157 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 158 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 159 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 160 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 161 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 162 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 163 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 164 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 165 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 166 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 167 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 168 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 169 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 170 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 171 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 172 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 173 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 174 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 175 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 176 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 177 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 178 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 179 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 180 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 181 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 182 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 183 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 184 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 185 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 186 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 187 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 188 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 189 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 190 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 191 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 192 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 193 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 194 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 195 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 196 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 197 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 198 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 199 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 200 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 201 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 202 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 203 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 204 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 205 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 206 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 207 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 208 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 209 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 210 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 211 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 212 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 213 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 214 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 215 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 216 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 217 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 218 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 219 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 220 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 221 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 222 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 223 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 224 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 225 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 226 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 227 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 228 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 229 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 230 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 231 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 232 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 233 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 234 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 235 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 236 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 237 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 238 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 239 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 240 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 241 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 242 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 243 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 244 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 245 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 246 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 247 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 248 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 249 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 250 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 251 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 252 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 253 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 254 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 255 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 256 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 257 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 258 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 259 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 260 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 261 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 262 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 263 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 264 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 265 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 266 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 267 £20.00/\$40.00 each, The Times Crossword - Book 268

Studies in fear, guilt and phrase-making

The clever thing about last night's *Modern Times* (BBC2) was that its title gave nothing away. "Hong Kong" was plainly called, and it could have been anything. Still, a succession of interviews with an old colonial, a young Indian journalist, and a refugee from China — against a whirling backdrop of planes, boats, skyscrapers and street markets — gradually announced the theme, which was fear of the imminent Chinese takeover. All credit to producer Lucy Blackstad that the pattern of her film (each person having more to fear than the last) only truly emerged with the final interview subject, a young student in specs and jeans. Jo looked carefree and optimistic, but had in fact been imprisoned and tortured in China after Tiananmen Square, and was now looking in deadly earnest for "a third country" to move on to. Foreboding isn't an emotion to

capture easily in a documentary, and instead of spelling it out, Blackstad opted for expressionism. Planes took off from the airport; helicopters buzzed; time was fast; beguiled by busy-ness. In a city of such extreme colour and movement, it's hard to look to the future: the present is too crowded, or just too interesting. Jimmy, a Hong Kong newspaper proprietor who once in print maligned a Chinese government minister as "son of a turtle's egg" (whoops! sat and and motionless in a café while blurred figures criss-crossed in front. Do I stay or do I go? The idea of leaving Hong Kong made Jimmy cry. "I escaped from China," he said. "Do I escape again? That's hard, to escape twice in one life."

On camera was the consistently terrific Michael Eley, a choice which helped to make this an intensely visual film — a series of coloured banners, if you like. Just as one will remember Kavita's plight as a former British national stranded in Hong Kong, one will remember the intense orange and white of her dress. The superficiality of her professional life — busy-busy fashion journalism in a city that judges entirely by appearances — was a perfect symbol for that old inadequate panic measure of rearranging the furniture on the Titanic. "It doesn't take heritage or breeding to get into society here," she thrilled. "All you need is cash." Meanwhile the planes kept taking off in the background, and Kavita remained at street level — albeit stunning in the orange frock — deciding what to do next.

A certain déjà vu pertained to last night's *Insiders* on BBC1, a series which I can't seem to leave alone. Star inmate this week was Dennis (Philip Whitworth), a Roman Catholic priest whose guilt for a careless hit-and-run was compounded by a

deeper sense of unworthiness, and a higher sense of self-sacrifice, and — well, it was uncomfortably similar to the plot of *Kavanagh QC* on Monday, that's my point. While the continuing saga of the pretty-boy prison officers ticked by in the background, Father Dennis wrestled with nerves in the form of Peter Howitt — father to the child killed in the accident. Howitt had been a bad father to his son,

you see, so now felt the need to turn his anger outwards. Both felt guilty, but had different ways of expressing it and their respective guilts kept clambering over each other, like toads in a jar. It wasn't quite clear why the other inmates were so vile to Father Dennis, but at least he rose above it. In the end, he was duffed up by Howitt, and decided to desert the ministry for his girlfriend, on the interesting ground that God wasn't warm and didn't smell of "yesterday's soap". I'm sure God will hear this news with mixed emotions.

As for the continuing story of the prison, I keep waiting for officer Woody Pine (Adrian Rawlins) to get his turn in the spotlight, but it hasn't happened yet. Woody looks like Dennis Bergkamp (Arsenal football player), and all we know about him is that he's faultlessly hard-working, wise and compassionate. This is not enough. In fact, it's getting a bit sickening. There has been an attempt to contrast him with officer Gerry (Robert Cavanah), but it's too obviously nice cop-nasty cop — or in this case, Nice Blond Open University Sociology Degree-Nasty Dark Rules and Regulations.

Finally, a superb subject for Jonathan Meades last night in *Even Further Afield* (BBC2). Supplying lots of scope for Meades' characteristic halfhearted phrase-making, postwar church architecture is all around us, its weird, graceless buildings monuments to fashion which will possibly never be knocked down. It's a worrying thought. We will be forever stuck with churches built during the Festival of Britain — which, as Meades pointed out, was really the Festival of Borrowing from Scandinavia.

A phoenix in the shape of a radiogram," he dubbed Coventry Cathedral (which, incidentally, he liked). Standing inside a circular, woody effort, Meades noted, hilariously: "The ascendancy of theatre-in-the-round had not escaped the Church's notice, either." In his signature *Blues Brothers* black suit and Ray-bans, Meades trudged miserably around grey bunkers and fancy fountains, and blamed the Church for weakly surrendering to somebody else's artistic vision, which had nothing to do with God: "It was as though the meat trade had commissioned, its new abattoirs from vegans."

The usual *Further Afield* buffoonery and sight-gags were naturally not in force — with sacrilege thrown in. Meades appeared walking on water, or covered in boils, or leaving an impression of his face (complete with specs) on a discarded toilet. Nobody packs more into a half-hour than Meades — and nobody, paradoxically, makes telly more guaranteed to fall out of fashion in no time.



Lynne Truss

- BBC1**
- 6.00am Business Breakfast (82709) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (7) (86631) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (7) (5481438)
 - 9.20 Style Challenge (4738815)
 - 9.45 Kilroy (4401780)
 - 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (39457)
 - 11.00 News (7) news and weather (8434877)
 - 11.05 The Really Useful Show (7046505)
 - 11.35 Change That (8621438)
 - 12.00 News (7) regional news and weather (7585956)
 - 12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5529709)
 - 12.30 Going for a Song (8989787)
 - 12.55 The Weather Show (79953341)
 - 1.00 News (7) and weather (86490) 1.30 Regional news and weather (83630186)
 - 1.40 Neighbours (7) (11927693)
 - 2.05 Quirney (5369693)
 - 2.50 An Time Goes By (7) (7) (5235344)
 - 3.20 Noble Castles (8650803)
 - 3.30 Playdays (7) (3001032) 3.55 Wham! Barri Strawberry Jam! (2660790) 4.10 Carol Classics (8495056) 4.10 Rugsats (146802) 4.35 The Really Useful Show (7) (543059) 5.00 Newsround (7) (5795902) 5.10 Grange Hill (7) (176063)
 - 5.25 Neighbours (7) (7) (274893)
 - 6.00 News (7) and weather (419)
 - 6.30 Regional News Magazine (158)
 - 7.00 Watchdog Consumer issues. Includes reports on private health insurance and cable television (7) (4506)
 - 7.30 Eastenders The Fowler family are forced to face up to unpleasant truths (7) (863)
 - 8.00 Wildlife on One: The Eagle Empire How the majestic sea eagle is making a comeback across northern Europe and Scotland (7) (8254)
 - 8.30 A Perfect State A hard-nosed MP arrives in Flatby with orders to undermine the community's fledgling independence — can the equally determined residents stop him in his tracks? Michael Atkin's comedy stars Owen Taylor, Rudolph Walker and David Nichols (7) (2761)
 - 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (7) regional news and weather (4341)
 - 9.30 Chalk Preparations for the staff meeting are interrupted when Galfast High springs a leak. School comedy starring David Bamber (7) (80815)
 - 10.00 The X-Files: The Walk Mulder and Scully investigate claims that a phantom soldier is stalking a disabled war veteran, determined to prolong his suffering — but they have trouble collaring the culprit (7) (493186)
 - 10.45 Question Time David Dimbleby hosts another topical debate from London. The panel includes Ian Hislop, the Editor of *Private Eye*, Harriet Harman, Shadow Secretary of State for Education and Don Foster, the Liberal Democrats' education spokesman (7) (864419)
 - 11.45 The Mrs Merton Show (7) (7) (96809)
 - 12.15am Unpleasantable Acts (1900) Powerful adaptation of a real-life child abuse scandal in which Jill Gifford and Brad Davis star as experts attempting to establish evidence against a group of paedophiles from their young victims. Directed by Linda Otto (49642)
 - 1.45 Weather (390587)

- BBC2**
- 6.00am Open University (7417438) 6.25 Organology and Origins (7429273) 6.50 Enzymes (9251902) 7.15 News (7) (7323893) 7.30 Captain Cavernham (8184235) 7.55 Blue Peter (7) (534709) 8.20 Whistling (753118) 8.35 The Record (740683) 8.55 News (7) (7323893) 9.25 John Galt (7035709) 9.40 Megamaths (4876761) 10.00 Playdays (50341) 10.30 Storytime (729896) 10.45 The Experimenter (2582544) 11.05 Space Ark (844807) 11.15 In Living Memory (407815) 11.35 The Record (7) (7323893) 11.55 Techno (8245709) 12.15pm Quirney Minutes Plus (5681693) 12.30 Working Lunch (48653) 1.00 Liteschool (8228267) 1.25 Isabel (4774902) 1.45 Numberline (8361723) 2.00 Whistling (3624964) 2.10 Everyone's Got One (2408457) 3.00 News (7) (4050949) 3.05 Westminster (4140812) 3.55 News (7) 4.00 Today's the Day (812) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (896) 5.00 Esther (7) (5612)
 - 5.30 Seniors Pot Black Graham Miles v Rex Williams (148)
 - 6.00 Star Trek: Deep Space Nine (7) (77558)
 - 6.45 Quantum Leap (7) (234032)
 - 7.30 First Sight Let's Mention the War A group of sixth formers visit the site where Hitler addressed the Nuremberg rallies and make an emotional visit to the death camp at Auschwitz. How will their visit affect their views on a united Europe? (7) (525) WALES: Surely Some Mistake? EAST: Master of the House of Commons: Midlands report NORTH/NORTH WEST/EAST/NORTH WEST/SOUTH WEST/ WEST: Close Up SOUTH: Southern Eye
 - 8.00 Surely Some Mistake? Former PR guru Lynne Truss, describes what went wrong with Viva Radio, the station aimed at women (7) (1586)
 - 8.30 Top Gear Jeremy Clarkson test-drives the new breed of supercars and Chris Goffey reports on the return of a British motoring legend, the vintage Ace of Spades (3631)

- CHOICE**
- Wildlife On One: The Eagle Empire BBC2, 8.00pm Meet the white-tailed sea eagle, the largest bird of prey in northern Europe, and for the purposes of a wildlife film, immensely photogenic. Mike Richards, the cameraman-director, has the perfect subject and he does not waste it. Taking his lens to the coast of Arctic Norway, he gives us a season-by-season account of the bird's life, from its feeding and breeding. The eagle is a master scavenger, whether it is plucking fish out of the sea in its claws, stealing a meal from an otter or moving in on a stillborn reindeer calf. Relatively free from the persecution and pollution which afflict the eagle elsewhere, Norway has been one of its favourite habitats. It is also being re-established in Scotland.
 - Surely Some Mistake? BBC2, 8.00pm (Wales, 7.30pm; not Scotland or Northern Ireland) Another entertaining tawdry through great business blunders features, among others, Lynne Truss, the public relations guru who allegedly inspired the Jennifer Saunders character in the sitcom *Red Dwarf*. Franks was a prime mover behind Viva, a London radio station aimed at women. The project was fated even before its launch when Katie Turner, the managing director, suffered a brain haemorrhage. But Viva failed because hardly anybody tuned in. Franks and Turner recall the disaster with a commendable lack of embarrassment. We also hear about a restaurant where staff thought they had food and drink was a perk of the job and the curious tale of Tie Rack and Stock Shop, two distinct businesses which became so linked in the public mind that the failure of the second helped to drag down the first.
 - Shop Till You Drop Channel 4, 8.00pm According to people who call themselves retail anthropologists, supermarket shoppers can be divided into six groups. The theory is given substance in an entertaining guide which calls on real trolley-pushers to match up to the stereotypes. The "diehards" are shoppers of habit who buy the same things every time, never try anything new and complain dreadfully if anything is moved to another shelf. At the opposite extreme are the "self-indulgent", prepared to experiment and with the money to do it. And so on down a list that includes those who buy green, those who buy anything as long it is cheap, those who hate shopping and get through as quickly as possible and the supermarket's favourite customers, the "comfortable and contented", who have the time and the money and stock up in generous quantities.
 - Horizon: Fat Cats, Thin Mice BBC2, 9.00pm For once the scientifically challenged need have no fears. Deborah Cadbury's film on obesity and ways of dealing with it could not be more accessible, and since it applies to so many of us, it is essential viewing. Cadbury's starting point is an organisation in the United States which tries to make the most of fatness and rejects the idea that being overweight is unhealthy. Rubbish, reports Dr Nick Fisher, a British obesity specialist, and he goes on to list a raft of conditions for which obesity can be responsible, including heart disease, damaged joints, breathing difficulties and, not least, diabetes. Chillingly, the risks can start at only half a stone overweight. The best remedies may lie in diet and exercise but Cadbury also looks at surgical treatments, the claims of slimming products and genetic experiments on mice. Peter Waymark

- GMTV (8885254)**
- 9.25 Chain Letters (4713506)
 - 9.55 Regional News (7) (5505693)
 - 10.00 The Time, the Place (54167)
 - 10.30 This Morning (7) (37791542)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (7) (7577490)
 - 12.30 News (7) and weather (8817273)
 - 12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (7956438)
 - 12.55 Shortland Street (828264) 1.25 Home and Away (7) (4772780) 1.50 Afternoon Live (11932525) 2.20 Vanessa (7) (5684032) 2.50 Afternoon Live (5248612)
 - 3.20 News (7) (5193269)
 - 3.25 Regional News (7) (5400380)
 - 3.30 The Riddlers (9715029) 3.40 Wizards (7) (8941322) 3.55 Cartoon Time (864119) 3.55 Rumpole (7) (4464877) 4.20 Mike and Angelo (1479864) 4.45 Rabbot II (5417051)
 - 5.10 A Country Practice (5662167)
 - 5.40 News (7) and weather (457069)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (7) (291895)
 - 6.25 HTV Weather (177877)
 - 6.30 HTV News (167)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale As the police begin their official investigation into a suspicious death, Frank wonders if he has finally reached the end of the road (7) (2902)
 - 7.30 3-D An investigation into the controversial nanny-cam, a device used by American parents to spy on their nannies (7) (821)

- ITV**
- 6.00am GMTV (8885254)
 - 9.25 Chain Letters (4713506)
 - 9.55 Regional News (7) (5505693)
 - 10.00 The Time, the Place (54167)
 - 10.30 This Morning (7) (37791542)
 - 12.20pm Regional News (7) (7577490)
 - 12.30 News (7) and weather (8817273)
 - 12.54 HTV Crimestoppers (7956438)
 - 12.55 Shortland Street (828264) 1.25 Home and Away (7) (4772780) 1.50 Afternoon Live (11932525) 2.20 Vanessa (7) (5684032) 2.50 Afternoon Live (5248612)
 - 3.20 News (7) (5193269)
 - 3.25 Regional News (7) (5400380)
 - 3.30 The Riddlers (9715029) 3.40 Wizards (7) (8941322) 3.55 Cartoon Time (864119) 3.55 Rumpole (7) (4464877) 4.20 Mike and Angelo (1479864) 4.45 Rabbot II (5417051)
 - 5.10 A Country Practice (5662167)
 - 5.40 News (7) and weather (457069)
 - 6.00 Home and Away (7) (291895)
 - 6.25 HTV Weather (177877)
 - 6.30 HTV News (167)
 - 7.00 Emmerdale As the police begin their official investigation into a suspicious death, Frank wonders if he has finally reached the end of the road (7) (2902)
 - 7.30 3-D An investigation into the controversial nanny-cam, a device used by American parents to spy on their nannies (7) (821)



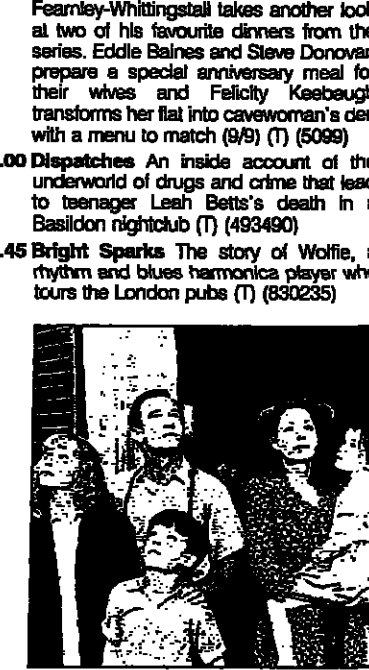
Blake and Cryer investigate (8.00pm)

- CENTRAL**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6992964)
 - 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5662167)
 - 6.25 Central News (209815)
 - 6.55-7.00 Lifestream (209815)
 - 10.40 Crime Stalker (881344)
 - 11.40 Do I Not Like That? (960728)
 - 12.40am Funny Business (4090281)
 - 1.15 Ed's Night Party (2432264)
 - 1.40 Club Nation (3470129)
 - 2.40 Shift (4318649)
 - 3.35 Stand and Deliver (8021674)
 - 4.35 Central Jobfinder '97 (810674)
 - 5.20 Asian Eye (8321939)

- WESTCOUNTRY**
- As HTV West except:
 - 12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6992964)
 - 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5662167)
 - 6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (50438)
 - 10.40 Power Game (438148)
 - 11.10 Tales from the Older County (173728)
 - 11.40 Traps (211964)

- STARS**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (75419)
 - 7.00 The Big Breakfast (89341)
 - 9.00 Bewitched (26983)
 - 9.30 Yagollon (950983)
 - 12.00 House to House (13419)
 - 12.30 Here's One I Made Earlier (33761)
 - 1.00 Spot Maltrun (97278)
 - 1.30 Film: Carry on Admiral (81964)
 - 3.00 Collectors' Lot (5235)
 - 3.30 Rick Lake (273)
 - 4.00 Fifteen to One (780)
 - 5.00 Howard Goodall's Organ Works (964)
 - 5.30 Pump (3380)
 - 5.30 Countdown (544)
 - 6.00 Newyddion (815525)
 - 6.05 Heno (202902)
 - 6.35 Jacpot (184167)
 - 7.00 Pabot y Cwm (312273)
 - 7.25 Pwy? Di Pwy? (654032)
 - 8.00 Pam Fi Dwy? (6964)
 - 8.30 Newyddion (5099)
 - 9.00 Heroes of Comedy (4693)
 - 10.00 Film: Damage (5496032)
 - 12.05am Dispatches (8289552)

- CHANNEL 4**
- 6.00am Sesame Street (75419) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (89341) 9.00 Bewitched (7) (26983)
 - 9.30 Schools (950983)
 - 12.00 House to House (13419) 12.30pm Here's One I Made Earlier (33761) 1.00 Cybil (7) (80782063) 1.25 Pat and Mat (4772322)
 - 1.50 Footsteps in the Fog (1955) With Stewart Granger and Jean Simmons. Edwardian melodrama about a wife-poisoner who tries to murder the maid who is blackmailing him. Directed by Arthur Lubin (8929254)
 - 3.30 Collectors' Lot (7) (7273) 4.00 Fifteen to One (7) (780) 4.30 News (7) (836200) 5.00 Rick Lake (7) (3380) 5.30 Pat Rescue (7) (544)
 - 6.00 Hangin' with Mr Cooper (7) (457)
 - 6.30 Hollywood Teen Soap (7) (709)
 - 7.00 Channel 4 News (78934)
 - 7.50 Winners and Losers (155344)
 - 8.00 Shop Till You Drop The habits and quirks of shoppers (2/4) (7) (6964)
 - 8.30 TV Dinners In the last of the series Hugh Fearnley-Whittinghall takes another look at two of his favourite dinners from the series. Eddie Baines and Steve Donovan prepare a special anniversary meal for their wives and Felicity Keabough transforms her flat into a cave-woman's den with a menu to match (8/9) (7) (6099)
 - 9.00 Dispatches An inside account of the underworld of drugs and crime on the streets to teenager Leah Betts's death in a Basildon nightclub (7) (493490)
 - 9.45 Bright Sparks The story of Woffie, a rhythm and blues harmonica player who tours the London pub (7) (890235)



A family at war (10.00pm)

- 10.00 Hope and Glory (1987) John Boorman's autobiographical memoir of an ordinary family living in London during the Second World War. As seen through the eyes of a nine-year-old boy, with Sebastian Rice-Evans, Sarah Miles and Ian Bannen. (5496032)
- 12.05am The Unpleasant World of Penn and Teller (7) (8204007)
- 12.35 Drowning by Bullets A documentary look at the massacre of Algerians by the French police that took place in Paris in October, 1961 (7) (7) (5164200)
- 1.35 Nothing But the Truth The rights and wrongs of a book written by a former Highgrove housekeeper being banned in Britain but on sale in other parts of the world. Last in series (7) (8362000)
- 2.35 Nomads Siberia's Evanki reindeer herders. Last in series (7) (4931303)
- 3.35 Schools: Reform and Reaction 4.00 Encyclopaedia Galactica 4.10 Russia 4.30 Schools at Work 4.35 The Guttering Haze 5.00 An Inner City Riot (322281)
- 5.30 Bookends (7) (7) (836200)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCode

The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCodes. These numbers allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you want to watch. The Video PlusCode is a trademark of Gemstar Development Ltd.

Desperate Heather Osborne (8.00pm)

Horizon: Fat Cats, Thin Mice BBC2, 9.00pm

FOX KIDS NETWORK

- 6.00am The Little Rascals (5556167) 6.30 Inspector Gadget (7767815) 7.00 Pizza Pizza (7767815) 7.30 Power Rangers (7767815) 8.00 The Simpsons (7767815) 8.30 The Simpsons (7767815) 9.00 The Simpsons (7767815) 9.30 The Simpsons (7767815) 10.00 The Simpsons (7767815) 10.30 The Simpsons (7767815) 11.00 The Simpsons (7767815) 11.30 The Simpsons (7767815) 12.00 The Simpsons (7767815)

SKY SPORTS 1

- 7.00am Sports Centre (58419) 7.30 World News (7493) 8.00 Sports Centre (58419) 8.30 Sports Centre (58419) 9.00 Sports Centre (58419) 9.30 Sports Centre (58419) 10.00 Sports Centre (58419) 10.30 Sports Centre (58419) 11.00 Sports Centre (58419) 11.30 Sports Centre (58419) 12.00 Sports Centre (58419)

SKY SPORTS 2

- 7.00am Sports Centre (58419) 7.30 World News (7493) 8.00 Sports Centre (58419) 8.30 Sports Centre (58419) 9.00 Sports Centre (58419) 9.30 Sports Centre (58419) 10.00 Sports Centre (58419) 10.30 Sports Centre (58419) 11.00 Sports Centre (58419) 11.30 Sports Centre (58419) 12.00 Sports Centre (58419)

SKY SPORTS 3

- 7.00am Sports Centre (58419) 7.30 World News (7493) 8.00 Sports Centre (58419) 8.30 Sports Centre (58419) 9.00 Sports Centre (58419) 9.30 Sports Centre (58419) 10.00 Sports Centre (58419) 10.30 Sports Centre (58419) 11.00 Sports Centre (58419) 11.30 Sports Centre (58419) 12.00 Sports Centre (58419)

SKY SPORTS 4

- 7.00am Sports Centre (58419) 7.30 World News (7493) 8.00 Sports Centre (58419) 8.30 Sports Centre (58419) 9.00 Sports Centre (58419) 9.30 Sports Centre (58419) 10.00 Sports Centre (58419) 10.30 Sports Centre (58419) 11.00 Sports Centre (58419) 11.30 Sports Centre (58419) 12.00 Sports Centre (58419)

For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory, published on Saturday

SKY 1

- 6.00am Morning Glory (340877) 6.00 Rage and Rattle (86787) 10.00 Afternoon Live (71278) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (11554) 12.00 Oprah Winfrey (74032) 1.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 1.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 2.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 2.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 3.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 3.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 4.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 4.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 5.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 5.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 6.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 6.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 7.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 7.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 8.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 8.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 9.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 9.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 10.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 10.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 11.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 11.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 12.00pm The Simpsons (74032) 12.30pm The Simpsons (74032) 1.00am The Simpsons (74032) 1.30am The Simpsons (74032) 1.50am The Simpsons (74032) 2.00am The Simpsons (74032) 2.30am The Simpsons (74032) 3.00am The Simpsons (74032) 3.30am The Simpsons (74032) 4.00am The Simpsons (74032) 4.30am The Simpsons (74032) 5.00am The Simpsons (74032) 5.30am The Simpsons (74032) 6.00am The Simpsons (74032) 6.30am The Simpsons (74032) 7.00am The Simpsons (74032) 7.30am The Simpsons (74032) 8.00am The Simpsons (74032) 8.30am The Simpsons (74032) 9.00am The Simpsons (74032) 9.30am The Simpsons (74032) 10.00am The Simpsons (74032) 10.30am The Simpsons (74032) 11.00am The Simpsons (74032) 11.30am The Simpsons (74032) 12.00am The Simpsons (74032) 12.30am The Simpsons (74032) 1.00am The Simpsons (74032) 1.30am The Simpsons (74032) 1.50am The Simpsons (74032) 2.00am The Simpsons (74032) 2.30am The Simpsons (74032) 3.00am The Simpsons (74032) 3.30am The Simpsons (74032) 4.00am The Simpsons (74032) 4.30am The Simpsons (74032) 5.00am The Simpsons (74032) 5.30am The Simpsons (74032) 6.00am The Simpsons (74032) 6.30am The Simpsons (74032) 7.00am The Simpsons (74032) 7.30am The Simpsons (74032) 8.00am The Simpsons (74032) 8.30am The Simpsons (74032) 9.00am The Simpsons (74032) 9.30am The Simpsons (74032) 10.00am The Simpsons (74032) 10.30am The Simpsons (74032) 11.00am The Simpsons (74032) 11.30am The Simpsons (74032) 12.00am The Simpsons (74032) 12.30am The Simpsons (74032) 1.00am The Simpsons (74032) 1.30am The Simpsons (74032) 1.50am The Simpsons (74032) 2.00am The Simpsons (74032) 2.30am The Simpsons (74032) 3.00am The Simpsons (74032) 3.30am The Simpsons (74032) 4.00am The Simpsons (74032) 4.30am The Simpsons (74032) 5.00am The Simpsons (74032) 5.30am The Simpsons (74032) 6.00am The Simpsons (74032) 6.30am The Simpsons (74032) 7.00am The Simpsons (74032) 7.30am The Simpsons (74032) 8.00am The Simpsons (74032) 8.30am The Simpsons (74032) 9.00am The Simpsons (74032) 9.30am The Simpsons (74032) 10.00am The Simpsons (74032) 10.30am The Simpsons (74032) 11.00am The Simpsons (74032) 11.30am The Simpsons (74032) 12.00am The Simpsons (74032) 12.30am The Simpsons (74032) 1.00am The Simpsons (74032) 1.30am The Simpsons (74032) 1.50am The Simpsons (74032) 2.00am The Simpsons (74032) 2.30am The Simpsons (74032) 3.00am The Simpsons (74032) 3.30am The Simpsons (74032) 4.00am The Simpsons (74032) 4.30am The Simpsons (74032) 5.00am The Simpsons (74032) 5.30am The Simpsons (74032) 6.00am The Simpsons (74032) 6.30am The Simpsons (74032) 7.00am The Simpsons (74032) 7.30am The Simpsons (74032) 8.00am The Simpsons (74032) 8.30am The Simpsons (74032) 9.00am The Simpsons (74032) 9.30am The Simpsons (74032) 10.00am The Simpsons (74032) 10.30am The Simpsons (74032) 11.00am The Simpsons (74032) 11.30am The Simpsons (74032) 12.00am The Simpsons (74032) 12.30am The Simpsons (74032) 1.00am The Simpsons (74032) 1.30am The Simpsons (74032) 1.50am The Simpsons (74032) 2.00am The Simpsons (74032) 2.30am The Simpsons (74032) 3.00am The Simpsons (74032) 3.30am The Simpsons (74032) 4.00am The Simpsons (74032) 4.30am The Simpsons (74032) 5.00am The Simpsons (74032) 5.30am The Simpsons (74032) 6.00am The Simpsons (74032) 6.30am The Simpsons (74032) 7.00am The Simpsons (74032) 7.30am



RACING 43

Webber passes early test with flying colours

SPORT

THURSDAY MARCH 6 1997

CRICKET 46

Atherton comes good in the final analysis



Striker may miss European tie

Liverpool lose patience with Collymore

FROM DAVID MILLER IN BERGEN

STAN COLLYMORE, Liverpool's £8 million forward signed from Nottingham Forest at the beginning of last season, may think he is a gift to the game. He is likely to discover tonight that the door is open for him to move on once more. He is unlikely to play in Liverpool's Cup Winners' Cup quarter-final first leg against SK Brann.

Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, has two dilemmas: whether to include the disaffected, moody Collymore, who was substituted in their defeat by Aston Villa on Sunday, and, with the injured Mark Wright left behind on Merseyside, who should be his third defender with Ruddock and Matteo — Babb, Rob Jones or Harkness. Ruddock himself has not been a starting choice since January.

There was a time when a trip to Norway for any prominent English club was no more than an informal training stint. No longer. Liverpool have enough problems here in imposing, panoramic, rain-swept Bergen tonight to be aware that any errors may jeopardise a place in the semifinals.

Although Brann will be handicapped by the fact that they are returning to action after their winter break, they defeated PSV Eindhoven, the Dutch league leaders, to reach

the quarter-final. Their striker, Mons Ivar Mjelle, has scored 12 goals in European competition and is capable of unhinging the best of defenders. He scored twice in the defeat of PSV.

In Evans's opinion, it is lack of consistency rather than quality that separates the present Liverpool team, standing second in the FA Cup Premier League, from emulating the club's former trophy-winning sides, yet Collymore's temperamental inadequacy is one of the reasons for their present inconsistency. His dis-

appointing display against Villa, leading to his replacement by Berger in the second half, suggests that Berger will be preferred for this game.

Evans's comment last night that there was "a fair chance" that Liverpool would play with only one man up front — Fowler — was less than enigmatic.

Collymore, who has yet to move house from the Midlands since leaving Nottingham, sulks after his substitution on Sunday and failed to appear for training on Tuesday. Not for the first time, Evans admits to being unable

to fathom Collymore's moods. The present position, however, cannot be tolerated indefinitely. Collymore's unpredictability harms the performance, not to say the morale, of his colleagues.

The long-term solution will almost certainly be to let him move on. For all Evans's undermonstrous words in public — "Tell me what his motives are" — Liverpool have never been a club to suffer self-preoccupation in a player.

Evans will probably play safe tonight, because he is well aware of the quality of the opposition. Comparing Brann with Brondby, of Denmark, who beat Liverpool in the Uefa Cup last season, Evans said: "Brann are very organised and talented and we saw them win in Cologne [a non-competitive match during their break]. Brondby did shut us out and made scoring difficult, but Brann have a strike force that must be considered. If we don't play up to standard, we know we could lose."

Assuming that Berger does play with McManaman behind Fowler, Evans will also be looking for some belated form from Redknapp. At 23, a six-year first-team veteran, Redknapp has yet to develop the playmaker's command of midfield that was forecast by Terry Venables, the former England coach. As England's star-of-tomorrow, Redknapp has been overtaken by Beckham, of Manchester United, and his performance against Villa was not outstanding. Talent is no excuse for not sweating.

Kjell Tennfjord, the Brann coach, dismissed the idea that Brann are weakened by the loss of two players — the Icelandic international goalkeeper, Birgir Kristinsson, and Jan Ove Pedersen in midfield — through registration confusion, and professed to be strongly optimistic.

"Liverpool, in my opinion, are the best side in England," he said last night, "but we can beat them if we have two good days. To have a chance, I think we must win the home leg."



Fixing a hole: Groundsmen investigate the hole in the pitch at Kingfield that caused the abandonment of a match, and another found yesterday

Hole story behind club's sinking fortunes

BY WALTER GAMMIE

"THE council are looking in to it," followed by a titter — such was the stock response to callers to Woking Football Club yesterday as they sought enlightenment to the Vauxhall Conference scoreline in *The Times* yesterday morning that read: Woking v Hayes, match abandoned (20min), hole in pitch.

The Surrey club hopes to get to the bottom of the matter this morning when the specialist company that surveyed the house of Fred West in Cromwell Street, Gloucester, and the underground workings of bypass protesters brings its equipment to scan the Kingfield pitch. "They've offered us

two hours of their time, free," Phil Ledger, the Woking chairman, said.

It was Ledger's quick thinking in offering spectators free admission when the match is staged again that dug Woking out of their hole on Tuesday night. The 2,000 fans were understandably restive at being cheated of their fill, with no provision existing for a refund.

Furthermore, although two man-sized craters — and the knots of bystanders peering into them — made the problem obvious yesterday, it was by no means so apparent on Tuesday night. Indeed, when Kevan Brown, the Woking captain, initially unearthed the Kingfield crater, his team-

mates did not let him believe it. "I received the ball from the left-hand side of the pitch and as I went to pass it, my standing leg gave way, I stumbled and almost fell over," he said.

"As play went up the other end, I said to Steve Foster: 'There must be a hole'. He just laughed and thought I was joking. Play went on for another couple of minutes and then Andy Ellis saw the hole, stood by it and called over the referee. It was about the size of a football and went down two or three feet."

Ledger was among those summoned to investigate by Paul Armstrong, the referee. "He put a corner flag into it and it went in very, very

easily," he said. "We put soil into it but it didn't help. He thought that if a player put his foot into the hole, he might break his ankle, and the managers agreed in those circumstances the match shouldn't go ahead."

"There was a 2ft square chamber with drainage pipes coming off it. A piece of biscuit-like cement was put over the top to stop bits of dirt falling into it. Earlier in the morning, it had been very wet and we had used a Verti-drainer on it. That cuts up the crust of the pitch and spikes the ground and we think it must have broken through the top of the chamber."

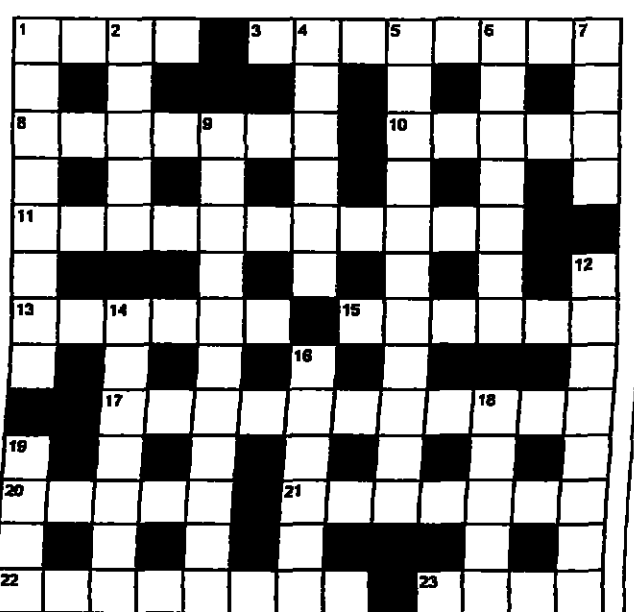
If the scan reveals no extensive damage to the rest of the

drainage system, Woking hope to resume normal service for their supporters next Tuesday in a Conference match against Welling United. The Capital League match against Welling tonight, however, has been postponed, and the Surrey FA's youth county championship semi-final on Saturday is in doubt.

Woking Borough Council knows that it is on to a good thing, if not a hole new ball game, by backing Woking, who attract publicity with unerring ease, even if it is normally by overturning Football League clubs in the FA Cup or reaching FA Umbro Trophy finals. It has just agreed a third year of sponsorship for £30,000.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 1034 in association with
BRITISH MIDLAND



ACROSS

- 1 To trick; one tricked (4)
- 2 Tom Brown bully (8)
- 3 Malade Imaginaire creator (7)
- 4 (Venerated) survival (5)
- 5 A-level student (5-6)
- 6 Firmly assert (6)
- 7 Reach (6)
- 8 Home-owner (11)
- 9 Massacre of innocents king (5)
- 10 Hang up; defer (7)
- 11 Advance (5)
- 12 Stigma; pronounce indistinctly (4)

DOWN

- 1 Of the home (8)
- 2 Flower; sounds like lots of sheep (5)
- 3 Keep doggo (3,3)
- 4 Delectable (11)
- 5 Mosquito-borne disease (7)
- 6 Impudence; part of body, of violin (4)
- 7 Depth-gauging device (4,7)
- 8 Trespasser (8)
- 9 Lively movement; may have trio (7)
- 10 Against (another team) (6)
- 11 Live (in) (5)
- 12 Cut; vacillate, with change (4)

British Midland

The Airline for Europe

PRIZES: THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling Economy Class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.

THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of destinations throughout the UK as well as Europe. With over 1,400 flights a week to 15 European destinations British Midland is the Airline for Europe.

All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address

SOLUTION TO NO 1033

ACROSS: 5 Circumscribe 8 Guinea 9 Curare 10 East 12 Diagram 14 Octopus 15 Deny 17 Angler 18 League 20 Pentfogging
DOWN: 1 Acquiescence 2 Bran 3 Psychic 4 Prologue 6 Urali 7 Barnaby Rudge 11 Smollett 13 Putrefy 16 Clog 19 Akin

Wigan shopping for new stadium

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WIGAN Rugby League Club yesterday announced the sale of Central Park, its home since 1902, to Tesco for a supermarket development. Wigan plan to use the proceeds of the £12 million deal to build a new stadium, but continue to be opposed by Dave Whelan, the multimillionaire businessman, who had offered to buy and redevelop the ground at a combined cost of £21.5 million.

Whelan, the owner of Wigan Athletic Football Club, whose offer for Central Park for use by the rugby league and football clubs was passed by an overwhelming majority of Wigan shareholders, said: "The Wigan board are boasting they've scored a victory against me. This isn't a victory, it's a tragedy."

"It has echoes of the furore in football at Brighton, where they have money in the bank from selling the ground and nowhere to play. Wigan have even approached me about helping them with this talk of a new stadium. I've been sitting with these fellows for six weeks and they've done this deal behind the backs of everyone. I don't want to be in the same room as them."

Whelan, a former Wigan president and lifelong supporter, said that he would not attend another game until Jack Robinson, the Wigan chairman, and Tom Rathbone, another director, went. Both men are believed to have swung the Tesco deal as debenture shareholders with superior voting rights, one of several aspects of the agreement about which Whelan is taking legal advice.

"If it can be opposed legally, and Robinson and Rathbone

were removed and the shareholders appointed a new board, I'd talk to them and, hopefully, offer the same deal for the ground," Whelan said.

Wigan can remain at Central Park this season and next and the club has an option on a temporary move to Bolton Wanderers' new stadium, five miles away at Horwich, while a new ground is built at one of three proposed sites. If unsuitable, however, a permanent home outside Wigan is not excluded.

Reaction yesterday to confirmation of the sale suggests that Wigan will have a hard job convincing supporters that turning Central Park into a supermarket is in the club's best interests.

Robinson said that there might be intransigence from mainly older supporters, but he felt that younger people were open to persuasion and would see the benefits. "It's called progress. We've got to get with it," he said.

In a letter to shareholders, Robinson said that Whelan's lease proposal for Central Park was a "business snail-jacket" that would restrict the club's ability to raise revenue. Whelan has said that, after tax and payment on land owned by the Wigan local authority, the club will be left with about £4 million from the Tesco deal — the same amount he offered to buy Central Park.

David Bradshaw, the Wigan director of operations, said: "We always believed that the ideal scenario was for the club to be playing in a state-of-the-art stadium. What we now have is a marvellous opportunity to bring that dream to reality."

Graham on slow route to title

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

HEROL GRAHAM'S second comeback contest, against Craig Joseph, of Bradford, on Tuesday night, earned him time to prove himself. The former British, European and Commonwealth champion, 37, who has been trying to convince promoters that he has still enough in him to campaign as a championship contender, has been given one year to show if he can compete with young super-middleweights.

After Graham's one-sided win over Joseph at the Ele-

phant and Castle, Frank Maloney will put Graham on again in April in Hull. "He put up a good enough performance tonight," Maloney said, "but at this level he'll never be in any trouble and will not make much money. I'll take it one fight at a time. Then after three or four fights we've got to see if he can fight."

Graham said: "I want to get to the top. A lot of people say I can't. A lot of people say if I get the opportunity to take it, you've still got your speed, reflexes and boxing ability. Use it to the best of your ability."

"If they want me to come back to boxing and do what I did straightaway, that's impossible. Even the best football team can't do it. But the cobwebs are coming off and I can only get better and better."

Chris Eubank has been given the chance to return to mainstream boxing. The former World Boxing Organisation super-middleweight champion, who has been promoting his own contests in the Middle East since his second defeat by Steve Collins 17 months ago, was yesterday offered a British and European title bout with the champion, Crawford Ashley, of Leeds.

Maloney said that he had sent a fax to Eubank offering £350,000 for the bout, which would be held in London in May or June. "Crawford has already sent him a fax but he has had no reply so I am sending him one officially now," Maloney said. "We are offering him £350,000 for the two titles and the bout will also be an eliminator for a world championship."



Graham: easy win

MORSE

Safe Deposit Box



Prevention is better than cure, as they say. Although what the cure is for lost data, we're not sure.

Which is why Hewlett-Packard has teamed-up with storage giant EMC Inc. to offer one of the industry's most secure and high performance data protection solutions.

MorseData is now helping some of the UK's largest corporations to implement a range of highly resilient, multi-host and network based storage systems.

The starting point is to call us for our Intelligent Storage Executive Briefing or arrange to meet one of our consultants.



MorseData

0800 22 88 88